

PROFILES OF WINNERS**PRIZE WINNERS FOR PIANO CATEGORIES****Junior Category (aged 12 and below)***First Prize***Quek Ming Yang Samuel, 11**

Samuel started cultivating his passion in music at the age of three. He has grown into a versatile musician, skilled at playing both the violin and the piano. Samuel currently studies at Pei Hwa Presbyterian Primary School. In addition, he trains under Professor Thomas Hecht, Head of Piano Studies at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, NUS. As someone who is always ready to showcase his talent, Samuel has gained much exposure participating on various competitions and concerts. In 2009, he was a finalist competitor at the Piano Works Competition (Singapore), and also performed at the 'Harmony Music Series' with Goh Guan Leng & Friends. Apart from music, Samuel also exercises his creative skills in the art of Japanese origami, which he says trains him to be more meticulous.

Intermediate Category (aged 15 and below)

First Prize

Ong De En Zacharus, 12



Zacharus is a student at the Pasir Ris Primary School and trains at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' School of Young Talents, under Ms Lena Ching. He participated in the '2009 Young Pianist Competition' organised by Dynamic Workz and won the third prize in the intermediate category. He also won the Second Prize in the Junior category of the 2009 National Piano and Violin Competition. Zacharus has also performed in several concerts including the 2010 'Baby Piano Project' organised by the Esplanade, as well as 'Campus Performs!' organised by the National Library Board in 2009. During his leisure time, Zacharus enjoys playing the violin, swimming and reading.

Senior Category (aged 18 and below)

First Prize

Li Chu Ren, 16



Chu Ren is pursuing her second year of studies in the Young Artist Programme at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, NUS, training under the tutelage of Assistant Professor, Albert Tiu. In the 2009 Piano and Violin Competition, she won second prize in the senior category. More recently, she emerged as the third prize winner for the below 15 years of age category at the inaugural 2011 'Bang and Olufsen PianoRAMA-Competition' held in Aarhus, Denmark. A talented and passionate composer as well, Chu Ren also trains under the Head of Composition at the Conservatory, Associate Professor, Ho Chee Kong. Her original compositions have been selected and performed at various platforms in Singapore, Indonesia and Korea.

Artist Category (aged 25 and below)

First Prize

Yeh Shih-Hsien, 19



Shih-Hsien expresses his love for music through playing the piano and the guitar. He is currently a student at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, studying under Assistant Professor, Albert Tiu. He is also one of the young artists performing for the New Art Inc Company. Earlier this year, Shih-Hsien performed a self-titled piece called the 'Yeh Shih-Hsien Piano Recital, at an event organised by the New Art Inc Company at the Taipei's National Concert Hall. Keen to expand his range of musical experiences, he recently participated in the '5th The Music Talent Bank Competition' in Taiwan.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR VIOLIN CATEGORIES

Junior Category (aged 12 and below)

First Prize and recipient of the Goh Soon Tioe Outstanding Performer Award
Sung-Eun Auh Elvina, 12



Elvina Sung started playing the violin at the age of eight. A Singapore permanent resident of Korean descent, she is currently studying in the United Kingdom at the Yehudi Menuhin School, a popular specialist international music school for musically gifted children. She trains under one of the school's key violin teachers, Lutsia Ibragimova. Her former teachers include violin teachers such as Masako White and Alexander Souptel.

Recently in 2010, Elvina participated in the 'Singapore Music Teachers Association (SMTA) Performers' Festival'. Although the event was not a competition, she was given a Gold mention for her outstanding performance. Aside from playing the violin and the piano, Elvina also enjoys reading, swimming and most of all, travelling.

Intermediate Category (aged 15 and below)

First Prize

Chan Fay Ching, Casey, 14



Casey is a student at the Raffles Institution (RI), where he is an active member of the RI String Ensemble (Ensemble music). In addition, he trains under Associate Professor Qian Zhou, Head of Strings at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. Casey started playing the violin when he was four and half years old. His performance experience includes concerts such as 'Strings Crossing' at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (2011) and the Singapore National Youth Sinfonia Concert organised by the Ministry of Education (2008).

Senior Category (aged 18 and below)

First Prize

Kong Xianlong, 15



Xianlong is currently a student at Dunman Secondary School. At the same time, he trains under Associate Professor Qian Zhou, Head of Strings at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, NUS. Xianlong has participated twice at the National Piano and Violin Competition, where he won the second prize in the junior category in 2007 and first prize in the intermediate category in 2009. He also gained much exposure from performing at the 2011 'Musical Olympus Festival Concert', which was organised by Musical Olympus International and Singapore National Youth Orchestra. Apart from playing the violin, Xianlong also enjoys swimming, playing the guitar and piano for leisure.

Artist Category (aged 25 and below)

First Prize

Choo Su Ho, Alan, 21



Alan graduated from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, NUS with a Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance in 2011. At the Conservatory, he studied under the tutelage of Mr. Alexander Souptel, leader of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Come 2012, Alan will start his Masters degree in Violin Performance at Peabody Conservatory of Music at the John Hopkins University. At Peabody, he will be studying under Mr Victor Danchenko, internationally renowned violin pedagogue and protégé of the legendary violinist, David Oïstrakh.

Alan has previously won second prize in the senior category of the 2007 National Piano and Violin Competition. Since then, he has performed on a number of platforms including 'A Cultural Odyssey' in 2011, where he undertook a solo recital together with Japanese pianist Miyuki Washimiya; and the 'Gala Concert of the Victor Danchenko International Master Course', where he performed with the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra conducted by Maestro Vladimir Lande in Beloselsky-Belozersky Palace, St. Petersburg, Russia.