


# MMTA STUDENT COMPOSITION CONTEST: WINNERS RECITAL

## Program

Teachers' names shown in parentheses

 The Sanctuary  
🕒 Sunday, 6:00 PM

### PRIMARY

Sharon Kaplan, NCTM, Judge

*1<sup>st</sup> Place:*

The Secret Spy  
Arthur Scott (Sarah Miller, instructor)

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place:*

Jungle Gym  
Nicolette Lee (Mary Beth Millner, instructor)

### ELEMENTARY

Rachel Brandwein, DMA, Judge

*1<sup>st</sup> Place:*

The Midnight Knight  
Daniel Bowe (Kathryn Karg, instructor)

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place:*

Bouree'  
Max Zhang (Sarah Miller, instructor)

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place:*

Mountains of Taiwan  
Derrick Fan (Wynn-Anne Rossi, instructor)

### JUNIOR HIGH

Corey Sevett, NCTM, Judge

*1<sup>st</sup> Place:*

Another Mountain  
William Feng (Sarah Miller, instructor)

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place:*

Adagio  
Kevin Chen (Sarah Miller, instructor)

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place:*

Intense Spirit  
Ariella Kim (Sarah Miller, instructor)

### SENIOR HIGH

Tyler Kline, MM, Judge

*1<sup>st</sup> Place:*

Daydreams  
Audrey Bienek (Marcia Knuttila, instructor)

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place:*

Within the Bazaar: Rhapsody and Groove  
George Fisher (Sarah Miller, instructor)

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

Rachel Brandwein, DMA, Judge

#### Primary

Beluga Waltz  
Calvin Christensen (Fern Davidson, instructor)

#### Elementary

Detective Camp  
Jishnu Raman (Stacy Julson, instructor)  
  
Brisk Morning  
Advaith Kalathil (Laura Harding, instructor)

#### Junior High

(No Honorable Mentions)

#### Senior High

We Three Musicians  
Anthony Petruconis (Sarah Miller, instructor)  
  
Windswept  
Nathan Roe (Sarah Miller, instructor)  
  
Vermillion Diversion  
Florence He-Yu (Sarah Miller, instructor)

Second grader **Arthur Scott** studies composition with Sarah Miller, piano with Irina Elkina, violin with Lucinda Marvin, and percussion with Robert Adney at MacPhail Center for Music. Arthur also studies music theory with David Damschroder at the University of MN, bagpipe with Michael Breidenbach at Macalester College, and participates in Minnesota Youth Symphonies. Arthur has won many competitions for piano and violin and has performed in numerous winners recitals including concerts at the Paladium in Carmel, Indiana and Carnegie Hall in NYC. In 2023 Arthur won first place in the MMTA Composition competition, first place in the State and the Regional Junior Composers Competitions and second place in the Junior Composers National Competition. In addition to music, Arthur loves classic muscle cars and making movies.

**Nicolette Lee** is finishing up her first year of piano with her teacher Mary Beth Millner. She is a first grader at XinXing Academy, a Chinese immersion school in Hopkins. Besides piano, Nicolette enjoys being on swim team and other activities like skiing, snowboarding, art, and collecting stuffed penguins.

**Daniel Bowe** lives in West St. Paul with his mom, dad and 3 brothers. He is a 5th grader at St. Joseph's Catholic School, plays ultimate frisbee, likes acting at Open Window Theater, loves to improvise on the piano and guitar and he loves his Faith.

**Max Zhang** is an 11-year-old student at Wayzata West Middle School. He began his musical journey at the age of 6. He is passionate about singing, playing the violin and piano, and composing pieces for these instruments. He takes composition lessons from Sarah Miller and vocal lessons from Mikyoung Park at the MacPhail Center for Music. Max was a winner of the MacPhail 2024 Spring Junior Honors Recital for voice. He is also a member of the Minnesota Opera Youth Circle Program. Max enjoys kung fu martial arts, tennis, chess, cooking, and reading. He has fun participating in martial arts competitions and won a Silver medal in the 2023 Golden State International Wushu Competition.

**Derrick Fan** is a 6th grader at John Adams Middle School in Rochester, Minnesota. He started learning to play the piano and to compose at around 8 years old. Outside of music he likes biking, playing tennis, and playing table tennis.

**William Feng** is a 14-year-old ninth grader at Wayzata High School, living in Plymouth, Minnesota. William studies piano with Richard Tostenson and composition with Sarah Miller at the Macphail Center for Music in Minneapolis. In 2021, the Minnesota Sinfonia premiered one of his pieces. He has also attended workshops with the Ivalas String Quartet, Lirios String Quartet, OboeBass! duet, Riverside Winds, and Minnesota Percussion Trio. As a pianist, William has won prizes in many competitions, making his solo debut in 2023 and his orchestral debut in 2022. Aside from music, William loves math and competes in DECA. He also loves to cook and bake in his free time.

**Kevin Chen** is a fourteen-year-old composer who has been writing music since the age of five. He started learning composition with Dr. Sarah Miller at MacPhail at the age of 8 and plays piano and violin. In 2019, he won the Minnesota Sinfonia Young Composers Contest, and got his piece performed at the Summer Season Finale Classical Concert. He is now in ninth grade and enjoys writing music and computer programming in his free time.

**Ariella Kim** is a 14-year old violinist, pianist and composer from Saint Paul, MN. She is currently in the eighth grade at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, and has attended the Greenwood and Kinhaven Chamber Music Camps. She is a prize winner of the Thursday Musical Young Artists Competition and a finalist in the Schubert Club Scholarship Competition, both as a violinist. As a composer, she won second prize for the Minnesota Junior Composer's Contest. Her teachers include Sarah Miller (composition), Natsuki Kumagai (violin) and Claudia Chen (piano). Ariella also plays soccer for the St. Paul Blackhawks and enjoys creating artwork and writing poetry.

**Audrey Bienek** is 17 and lives in Warren MN. Music, especially piano and composition, is her passion. She is a 3rd year member of MMTA with 13 piano students. Her faith is the most important thing to her, as she teaches church school, directs her church youth choir, and provides music for many church events/bible camps. Audrey also loves hanging out with friends, going to the lake and being outdoors, running, and performing in musicals.

**George Fisher** is a Sophomore at Maple Grove High School. His primary instruments include clarinet, piano and saxophone. While George enjoys playing music, his true passion is composition. While composition started as a hobby, George aims to major in composition and conducting after High School.