

YOUNG ARTISTS' COMPETITION 2024-25 WINNERS

Elsa Klaas - piano

Repertoire: Haydn Piano Concerto in D Mvt. 1

Elsa Klaas is a junior at Ottawa Hills High School with a deep passion for music and the arts. She began her piano studies at the age of three and currently trains under the guidance of Frances Renzi. Elsa is an active member of the Junior Monday Musicale and has earned multiple scholarships recognizing her exceptional talent and dedication. In addition to her local accomplishments, Elsa has participated in prestigious Suzuki Institutes in Beaver Creek, Colorado, and Stevens Point, Wisconsin. In 2024, she further honed her skills by attending the Piano Intensive at the renowned Interlochen Center for the Arts. Beyond her musical pursuits, Elsa is also an avid athlete, enjoying cross-country and track running. Her commitment to excellence is evident both in her musical endeavors and athletic achievements.



Isaac Weese - Violin

Repertoire: Mendelssohn Violin Concerto Mvt. 3

There is something particularly compelling about the violin, as evidenced by 17-year-old Isaac Weese's dedication to practice since he began at the age of four. Currently, he performs with the Findlay City School Symphonic Orchestra and the Toledo Symphony Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. Furthermore, he has been selected for the OMEA Northwest Regional and All-State Orchestras for three consecutive years. Isaac appreciates performing for diverse audiences, whether as a soloist or as part of an ensemble. His performances extend to community theatre orchestra pits and local community events, either as a member of the Findlay String Factor or in a music duo with his younger sister. Isaac faces the ongoing challenge of balancing multiple commitments, including schoolwork, musical theatre productions, and participation in Findlay First Edition, his high school's competitive show choir. He expresses gratitude towards his family and teachers/directors, past and present, for their unwavering support, which has been instrumental in his achievements as a violinist. Additionally, he acknowledges the contributions of various music organizations such as the Toledo Symphony School of Music, Findlay City School Orchestras, Toledo Symphony Youth Orchestras, OMEA, and Annie Moses Foundations, which have provided him with exceptional learning and performance opportunities. He is a junior at Findlay High School.



LyAnn Samkari - Violin

Repertoire: Monti Czardas

LyAnn Samkari is a dedicated violinist who began her musical journey at the age of six. She has received notable recognition for her talent, earning scholarships in the TSYO Scholarship Audition at the ages of nine and twelve. In addition, she was awarded a scholarship from Monday Musicale, further affirming her commitment to excellence in music. LyAnn has consistently demonstrated her musical proficiency, earning a 1 rating in Solo and Ensemble each year she has participated. Her violin studies are under the guidance of renowned instructor Vasile Beluska, who has helped shape her technique and artistry. Outside of her musical pursuits, LyAnn is a creative individual who enjoys a variety of hobbies, including engaging in artistic projects, watching films, playing card games with family, singing, and shopping. With a passion for both music and the arts, LyAnn continues to grow and pursue new creative endeavors. She is a freshman at Southview High School.

