

MostArts Young Pianists Competition wraps up with performances by four talented teens

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From left: Hyeonuk Park,
Ethan Yuen, Corey Byron,
Shuheng Zhang.

ALFRED, NY – Alfred University's 2019 MostArts Festival will wrap up its annual Young Pianists Competition Friday, July 12, in Miller Theater, when four teenage pianists play Mozart concertos under the direction of conductor and longtime MostArts supporter Steven Thomas. The Friday performances follow performances by four teenage pianists Thursday, July 11.

Thomas is a long-time guest of the Festival who, in addition to coaching and conducting the young classical pianists, also plays violin and viola with the MostArts Festival Orchestra. A long-time teacher of classical music, he has taught at the Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton College and served as concertmaster at Shea's Buffalo Performing Arts Center, as well as a substitute violinist with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Under his direction, the following four young pianists will perform July 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m.:

Hyeonuk Park, 14, is a student at the Baker School, in Brookline, MA, and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In both 2012 and 2013, he won first prize at the National Music Contests with the Daegue Philharmonic Orchestra in his native Korea. Since moving with his family to the United States, he recently won second prize at the ninth West Virginia International Piano Competition and Festival in Morgantown, WV. Hyeonuk will play Mozart's Concerto No. 23 in A Major K. 488 in MostArts' July 12 Evening Concert Series.

Seventeen-year-old Ethan Yuen began playing classical piano when he was five and won his first piano competition when he was seven. He and his family live in Palo Alto, CA, and he continues to maintain a busy competitive schedule while studying classical music at Santa Clara University. Over the past few years, he has won prizes in the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, Ross McKee Piano Competition, Young Pianists' Beethoven Competition, and Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition. This summer, he will perform on National Public Radio's From the Top with esteemed pianist Simone Dinnerstein. At the MostArts Festival July 12 he will perform Mozart's Concerto No. 20 in D minor K. 466.

Carey Byron, 14, is a student at Oak Crest Academy, Los Angeles, CA, and has won numerous prizes at the local, state and international levels since she began playing classical piano at the age of four. Most recently, she won a top prize in the Redlands Bowl Young Artists Concerto Competition as the youngest contestant in the age group of 13-30. She also has performed solo recitals and chamber and orchestral performances across the country and overseas,

including Carnegie Hall, Thayer Hall, Warner Concert Hall, the Richard Nixon Presidential Library, and Basilica di San Pietro in Vatican City. She will perform Mozart's Concerto No. 9 in E-flat major K. 271 on the concluding night of the Mozart Festival's Young Pianist Competition.

Shuheng Zhang, 17, a junior at Washtenaw International High School in Ypsilanti,, MI, has won top prizes in numerous competitions, including the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition, the David Dubois Piano Competition, and Lee University International Piano Competition. As a featured soloist, he has performed with several major orchestras, and his stage appearances include recitals at the National Theater in Warsaw, Poland, and the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, in Salt Lake City, UT. He will play Mozart's Concerto No. No. 23 in A Major K. 488 to complete the Young Pianists Competition at the 2019 MostArts Festival.

Prizes for the [Young Pianist Competition](#) will be awarded Saturday, July 13, in Miller Theater following the Gala Concert performed by the MostArts Festival Orchestra. The orchestra that night will be joined by world famous pianist Joaquin Achucarro and will perform Brahms' Academic Festival Overture Op. 80; Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 16, and Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 16.

Tickets to the final performances July 11 and 12 are available online at [MostArts website](#) or by calling the MostArts Ticket Office at 607-871-2828.