

MostArts Festival organizers announce 2019 Young Pianist Competition finalists

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ALFRED, NY – Eight finalists will perform over three days during the sixth Young Pianist Competition at Alfred University's 2019 MostArts Festival, scheduled for July 7-13.

The [2019 Young Pianist Competition](#) concerto round will be held Thursday and Friday, July 11 and 12, and will feature the 2nd and 3rd movements of a Mozart concerto of the competitors' choice. Four competitors will perform their Mozart concerti each day with the MostArts Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Steven Thomas.

The competing pianists, ages 13-18, will be vying for a Grand Prize of \$10,000 cash. The winner will be invited back in 2020 to perform with the MostArts Festival Orchestra at the opening concert.

This year's finalists will give solo performances on Wednesday, July 10, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the Miller Theater. These recitals offer the opportunity for the soloists to show off their pyrotechnics as well as the poetic side of their artistry. Both recitals are free of charge and open to the public.

Their final performances will take place on Thursday, July 11, and Friday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Miller Theater. On those two evenings, audience members may participate by voting for their favorite for a special "Audience Favorite Award" of \$500; the winner will be announced at the Gala Concert on Saturday evening, July 13. Tickets to the final performances are available online at [MostArts website](#) or by calling the MostArts Ticket Office at 607-871-2828.

The 2019 MostArts Festival Young Pianist Competition Finalists (pictured above) are: (top row, left to right) LiYuan Byrne, 16, of Verona, NJ; Carey Byron, 14, of Los Angeles, CA; Sora Hoppo, 15, of Sewickley, PA; and Kaelem Michel, 14, of Fayetteville, NY, and (bottom row, left to right) Shuheng Zgang, 17, of Canton, MI; Ethan Yuen, 17, of Palo Alto, CA; Maxine Park, 14, of Hanover, NH; and .Hyeonuk Park, 14, of Chestnut Hill, MA.

The MostArts Festival begins with the Opening Gala Concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 7, in Miller Theater. The concert will feature the talents of [Christopher Zandieh](#), winner of the Young Pianist Competition from the 2018 MostArts Festival. Zandieh will perform Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 with the International Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Yuval Zaliouk.

Other events scheduled throughout the week will include performances by internationally renowned Spanish pianist [Joaquin Achucarro](#), Israeli pianist Dorel Golan, and Colombian violinist [Blanca Cecilia Gonzalez](#); a chamber music series, workshops and art exhibitions in the University's museums and galleries.

For more information on the Festival, including a complete schedule of events, and to purchase tickets, please visit the [MostArts website](#). Ticket inquiries can also be made by emailing MostArts@alfred.edu or by calling Lisa Lantz, professor of music and chair of the Division of Performing Arts at Alfred University and artistic director for the MostArts Festival, at 607-871-2562.