

15-year-old Alice Zhang wins MostArts top honor

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Alice Zhang, 15, of Vernon Hills, Ill.

Alice Zhang, a 15-year-old sophomore at Vernon Hills High School, in Vernon Hills, Ill., won first prize in the 2017 Young Pianist Competition at Alfred University&s MostArts Festival. She will receive a \$10,000 cash prize and an invitation to become a Young Steinway Artist, and will return to Alfred University for the opening Gala Concert at the 2018 MostArts Festival next July.

Fifteen-year-old Raymond Feng of Pittsford, N.Y. took the \$5,000 second prize.

Seventeen-year-old Scarlett Zheng of Cranford, N.J. was awarded third prize and \$1,500, as well as the Audience Favorite Award for her moving performance of the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 20.

The festival's youngest competitor, 13-year-old Aliya Alsafa of Chicago, Ill., also won Friday evening's Audience Favorite award for her beautiful performance of the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 15.

In addition to these prizes, the Judges Discretionary Award of \$1,000 went to two 16-year-olds, Siyu Yang of Syosset, N.Y. and William Yang of Lexington, Mass., for their brilliant solo recital performances. Other Merit Certificates were awarded to 17-year-old David Godar of Cincinnati, Ohio and Christian Chiu of Pittsburgh, Pa.

The International jurors for the Young Pianist Competition included Angelin Chang, Steinway artist and German born pianist Andreas Klein, and American pianist Anthony Pattin.

Alfred University President Mark Zupan offered closing remarks at the conclusion of Saturday&s festivities. Zupan also presented the University's Fiat Lux Award to Artistic Director and Alfred University Professor of Music Lisa Lantz