

## Alice Zhang returns to Alfred University as MostArts Festival solo pianist

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Alice Zhang

ALFRED, NY Alice Zhang, a 16-year-old high school student in Vernon Hills, IL, returns to Alfred University and the 2018 MostArts Festival as solo pianist for the Grand Opening Festival Concert.

The opening concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 8, in Miller Theater on the University campus. Maestro Yuval Zaliouk will conduct the MostArts Festival Orchestra's performance of Beethoven's Overture to Fidelio, Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Mozart's Symphony No. 41. As winner of 2017 MostArts Festival Young Pianist Competition, Zhang will join the orchestra in the Opening Festival Concert.

Zhang, a junior at Vernon Hills High School, began taking piano lessons at the age of four with Brenda Huang, a faculty member at the Music Institute of Chicago. She also studies with Professor Eduardus Halim, Sascha Gorodnitzki Chair of Piano Study at New York University, and with Dr. Matthew Hagle, a faculty member of the Music Institute of Chicago.

Since the age of nine, Zhang has performed throughout the Chicago area, including the Chicago Symphony Center, Ravinia Park's Gordon Bennett Hall, the Chicago Fine Art Building, the Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, and the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium in the Chicago Public Library. In 2011, she was the first prize winner in elementary division in Emilio Del Rosario (EDR) Piano Concerto Competition.

Her recent piano performances have been featured on Chicago WFMT 98.7 Fine Arts Radio Station's Introductions program, on which she has played selections from Mozart, Brahms, Ravel and Liszt. She is also an accomplished chamber musician, as her newly established Jayus Trio recently received Honorable Mention in the 2018 National Discover Chamber Music Competition. In 2017, she was the pianist of the Odysseus Trio, which advanced to the

semifinals of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition at the University of Notre Dame.

Zhang's appearance in the MostArts Grand Opening Festival Concert kicks off a week of classical music in this, the fifth year of the MostArts Festival. In addition to daily chamber music performances, the Festival includes the Young Pianist Competition, which this year will award \$20,000 in prize money, including the \$10,000 grand prize.

This year's Young Pianist Competition begins with solo performances Wednesday, July 11, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. This year's competition begins with solo performances Wednesday, July 11, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in Alfred University's Miller Theater. The recitals are free of charge and offer the opportunity for the soloists to demonstrate both their virtuosic talents and the poetic side of their artistry. The finalists then perform with the Festival Orchestra the following two nights, with the prizewinners announced at the closing Gala Concert, Saturday, July 14. Saturday's Gala Concert will also feature Grammy Award winning pianist Angelin Chang, who will perform the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 under the direction of Lisa Lantz, Artistic Director and founder of the MostArts Festival.

MostArts includes additional exhibitions and instruction in performing and studio arts, including a July 14 demonstration of Raku pottery firing by world-renowned ceramic artist Wayne Higby. The festival also coincides with one-, two-, and four-week ceramic workshops on the Alfred University campus, led by internationally recognized artists. Additional workshops of music, crafts and art will include a piano master class, clay pottery, painting, drawing, gardening and creative writing.

For more information on MostArts, including a schedule of events visit: [mostarts.alfred.edu](http://mostarts.alfred.edu).