

## Eight young pianists to compete at Alfred University's MostArts Festival

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ALFRED, NY Eight finalists will perform over two days during the fifth Young Pianist Competition at Alfred University's 2018 MostArts Festival.

The MostArts Festival will be held July 8-14. The Young Pianist Competition is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, July 12 and 13, and will feature the 2nd and 3rd movements of a Mozart Concerto. 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, donated in memory of late Alfred University Business Professor Robert Hutter. The winner will be invited back in 2019 to perform with the MostArts Festival Orchestra at the opening concert.

This year's finalists will give solo performances on Wednesday, July 11 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 12, and Friday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Miller Theater. On those two evenings, audience members may participate by voting for their favorite, which will then be announced at the Gala Concert on Saturday evening, July 14. Tickets to the final performances are available online at [MostArts website](#) or by calling the Ticket Office at 607-871-2828.

The following MostArts Festival Young Pianist Competition Finalists will perform Thursday, July 12:

[Christian Chu](#), 15, of Pittsburgh, PA, is a student of Natasha Snitkovsky.

[Ashley Kim](#), 14, of Wilmette, IL, is a student of Brenda Huang.

[Angeline Ma](#), 15, of Berwyn, PA, is a student of Susan Starr.

[Perren-Luc Thiessen](#), 15, of McKinney, TX, is a student of Tamas Ungar and Mary Humm.

The following MostArts Festival Young Pianist Competition Finalists will perform Friday, July 13:

[Tyler Kim](#), 15, of Temecula, CA, is a student of Myong-Joo Lee and Fabio Bidini.

[Maxine Park](#), 13, of Hanover, NH, is a student of Mila Filatova.

[Simeon Radev](#), 17, of Orangeburg, SC, studies piano under Alan Weinberg.

[Christopher Zandieh](#), 13, of Syosset, NY, is a student of Ernest Barretta.

*The 2018 Young Pianist competitors are pictured above, clockwise from top-left: Christian Chu, Ashley Kim, Angeline Ma, Perren-Luc Thiessen, Tyler Kim, Maxine Park, Simeon Radev, and Christopher Zandieh.*

The MostArts Festival begins with the Opening Gala Concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 8, in Miller Theater. The concert will feature the talents of Alice Zhang, winner of the Young Pianist Competition from the 2017 MostArts Festival. Zhang will perform Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the International Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Yuval Zaliouk.

Other events scheduled throughout the week will include a number of musical performances and concerts, workshops and art exhibitions in the University's museums and galleries.

Once again, the Festival will offer the noontime "Sound Bites Sampler" Chamber Music Series. The free performances feature various groups of musicians performing gems of the chamber music repertoire. The Evening Concert Series includes internationally-renowned pianists Andreas Klein and Angelin Chang, and violinist Blanca Cecilia Gonzalez.

In addition to great music, there will be an opportunity to see great art during the "Music Under the Stars" Gallery Hop and BBQ featuring the Alfred Art Walk. Visitors are invited to take the tour to various galleries on campus and around the Alfred community. The Art Walk culminates at the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, which features an exhibition by ceramic artist, Cristina Cordova, and another featuring selected prints by Elisabeth Pellathy, Lee Somers, and Scott Stephens.

A variety of one-day workshops for all levels of ability are offered in clay, plein air, creative writing, guzheng, food carving, cooking classics, flower arranging, and a very special free children's mural project. Space is limited for each workshop, so sign up today. Information and Registration can be found on the [MostArts website](#) under Workshops.

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](mailto:MostArts@alfred.edu) or by calling Lisa Lantz, professor of music at Alfred University and artistic director for the MostArts Festival, at 607-871-2569. Tickets are required for all evening events and workshops throughout the Festival.