

22-year-old wins Jefferson Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition

First prize of \$5,000 was awarded to the top finalist, along with the opportunity to perform in concert with the orchestra later this season.



JSO*YAC Finalists Alexandre Meyer, Ann Kuo, Najee Greenlee, Glenn Choe

(Jefferson County, Colorado) Flutist Ann Kuo has won the first prize at the 64th Jefferson Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition (JSO*YAC). Kuo is a Master's student of flute performance at the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles and will return to Colorado later this season to solo with the JSO and perform flute repertoire in a chamber recital.

The JSO*YAC draws musicians (up to age 24) from across the United States to Colorado for an annual competition, with the winner receiving \$5,000 and guest artist opportunities with the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra. Ten instrumentalists auditioned during the competition, which was held on Jan. 6 at the Colorado Christian University Music Center in Lakewood, CO.

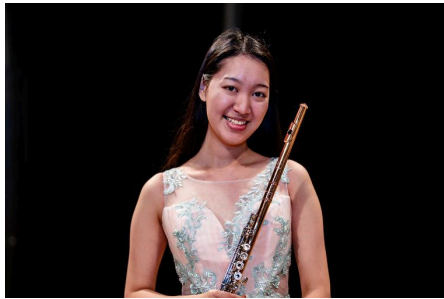
This year's competition was adjudicated by Michael Hengst, Ingrid Larragoity-Martin, and Ian Wisekal, who announced their results after an all-day, live-finals round of concerto performances. Ann Kuo received first place with her performance of the Flute Concerto by French composer Jacques Ibert. Following the competition, Kuo performed a movement of her concerto in a winners' recital featuring the top finalists of the competition.

Ann Kuo, 22, studies at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles, CA, with Jim Walker. Kuo has performed around the globe at venues in Canada, Austria, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Japan. Last summer, she programmed a charity recital in Taiwan called "Sound of Home", for which she commissioned a new work by a Taiwanese composer and donated proceeds to youth service organizations in Taiwan.

Najee Greenlee, 20, studies at Rice University in Houston, TX, with Richie Hawley, and received the competition's second prize and \$2,000 with his performance of Aaron Copland's Clarinet Concerto. Alexandre Meyer, 22, studies at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio with Demarre McGill, and won third place and \$1,000 by performing the Flute Concerto by André Jolivet. The judges awarded Honorable Mention to Glenn Choe, 19, a student at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, who performed *Concerto for Marimba* by Emmanuel Séjourné.

As the Symphony's 2024 Young Artist, Ann Kuo performs a solo recital presented by JSO on Friday, April 5, in Golden, CO. She will perform the Ibert Flute Concerto on Sunday, April 7, with Jefferson Symphony Orchestra and conductor Arturo González at the Green Center in Golden.

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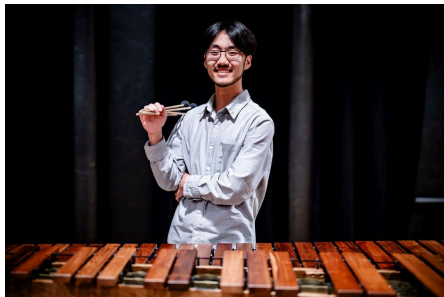
Ann Kuo, flute; JSO*YAC First Place & 2024 JSO Young Artist



Najee Greenlee, clarinet; JSO*YAC Second Place



Alexandre Meyer, flute; JSO*YAC Third Place



Glenn Choe, marimba; JSO*YAC Honorable Mention

(Photos by Lan Vo)