

VIRTUOSIC VISION concert to feature outstanding Young Musicians

Under the direction of Music Director Bruce Briney, two of the area's most talented young high school musicians will be the featured soloists for the Quincy Symphony Orchestra's 56th Young Artists Concert on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011 at 3:00 PM in the QJHS Morrison Theater. VIRTUOSIC VISION will feature the two winners of the annual Young Artists Competition: Ming Wang performing on piano, and Sarah Meirose on harp. In keeping with the young artist theme, the QSO will host the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra for the concert opener, and conclude with a monumental symphonic work by a virtuosic teenage composer.

Ming Wang is a senior attending Macomb High School. She began playing piano at the age of four at a children's music center in Japan. Upon moving to Canada at the age of seven, she was taught by several independent instructors until enrolling under the instruction of Michael Oike at the Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts in Winnipeg, Manitoba. There, she was awarded the top scorer for the 2006 Royal Conservatory of Music Level 7 playing exams, and was also the first runner-up in the 2006 Winnipeg Music Festival. For two years she has studied with Jenny Perron. In 2008, Ming placed first in the Bradley University Piano Competition and at the P.A.M.T.A. Sonata Competition in Peoria. At school, Ming is a member of the Macomb High School Wind Symphony in which she has played the flute and now the trumpet. She is also the President of the MHS Ecology Club, Secretary of the MHS Scholastic Bowl, and a member of the MHS National Honor Society. In the future, Ming looks to pursue a career in International Business with hopes of studying and working abroad. She is also considering a degree in piano accompaniment. Ming is the daughter of Sammy Wang and Taoping Zhang.

Sarah Meirose is a senior at Quincy High School and has studied the harp for seven years as a student of Sarama Schnack. She also studies with Faye Seeman at Northern Illinois University. She is a member of the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra, and has played with the Birch Creek Symphony in Wisconsin. She has participated in the Pacific Harp Institute in Washington, Midwest Harp Festival in Oklahoma, and the American Harp Society Conference in Washington. Sarah's other musical activities include the Quincy Senior High Symphonic Orchestra, Quincy High School Concert Choir, and QHS pit orchestra. She is a member of the QHS Beta Club and National Honor Society. This fall, Sarah is looking forward to continuing her study of the harp with a major in International Business at Baylor University. She is the daughter of Paul and Jane Meirose.

The QSO will host the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra as they share a side-by-side performance of Bizet's "Intermezzo" and "Farandole" from *L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2* under the direction of QAYO Conductor Trent Hollinger. Briney will then lead the young soloists in their performances. Miss Wang will perform the first movement of Bach's *Concerto in D minor BWV 1052*. The first half of the program will conclude with Miss Meirose's performance of the first movement of Harl McDonald's *Suite from Childhood*.

Following the intermission, the QSO will perform the Dmitri Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 1 in F minor, Opus 10*. Shostakovich completed this symphonic masterpiece in December 1925 as his graduation exercise for Maximilian Steinberg's composition course at the Leningrad Conservatory. Shostakovich completed his graduation symphony as a surprisingly experienced composer of orchestral works, having already completed two scherzos, a set of variations, and a group of fables for mezzo-soprano and orchestra. The basic form of the work includes the conventional four movements, although placing the scherzo second and the slow movement third was very unconventional. Throughout, Shostakovich finds other ways of playing within the form, producing events in unexpected order, interrupting, linking, revisiting. His orchestral imagination being highly developed, at eighteen and nineteen he had much to say of astonishing

depth. Every phrase is a wonderful sign of the arrival of a new, eloquent, unmistakable voice. The *Symphony No. 1* will be a fitting culmination to an afternoon showcasing outstanding young talent.

Concert tickets will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance from the Symphony Office at 428 Maine, or from Sturhahn Jewelers, 2801 Broadway Rd. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors. Thanks in part to support from the Tracy Family Foundation, children 18 and under are admitted free to all QSO concerts, and are encouraged to attend. Flexi-tickets (6 admissions for \$60) will be available at the concert, offering a 30% discount over single-admission prices. The performance is made possible in part by the Knapheide Manufacturing Company, Music Sponsor Quincy Medical Group, Media Sponsor Charter Media, the Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust, and by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Golden Baton Sponsors for all concerts of the Bridges season are the Knapheide Manufacturing Company and Dene Lambkin Honda, Hyundai, and Hertz.

The QSOA has been hit hard by reduced state and grant funding. The organization is holding a fundraising raffle and needs support from the community at large. Raffle tickets will be for sale at the concert for \$10 each, and are also available from any chorus, orchestra, Encore!, or board member. The \$1,000 grand prize drawing will be held at the Harmonic Rhythms Finale Concert on April 9. Buy your tickets early to also be included in the Early Bird drawing for \$250 cash on Feb. 26! The winner need not be present. Raffle proceeds will support the many programs of the Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association, including the Youth Orchestra, Youth Chorus, Concerts for children, Choral concerts, and Quincy Symphony Orchestra concerts. Visit the website www.qsoa.org or call the Symphony office for more information 222-2856.