



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 30, 2017

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Link to Final Forte event photos: <https://goo.gl/a6TEPZ>  
*Additional information and photos available upon request.*

## Winners of the Madison Symphony Orchestra's 2017 Bolz Young Artist Competition

**MADISON, WI** – **Julian Rhee**, 16, a violinist and junior from Brookfield East High School, won first place at the Madison Symphony Orchestra's 2017 Bolz Young Artist Competition. The second place award went to **Michael Wu**, 14, a pianist from Cardinal Heights Upper Middle School.

All four young artists individually performed with the Madison Symphony Orchestra (MSO) throughout the evening at Overture Hall in downtown Madison on Wed. Mar. 29. Both the first and second place finishers were featured as soloists with the MSO during the Spring Young People's Concert on March 30<sup>th</sup>, and receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

Rhee won the prestigious competition with his performance of the first movement of the *Violin Concerto in D major* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Wu performed a movement from Camille Saint-Saëns' *Piano Concerto No. 2*.

Honorable mention honors were also given to the two other finalists: violinist **Yaoyao Chen**, 18, from Xavier High School, who performed a movement from Jean Sibelius' *Violin Concerto in D minor*, and harpist **Naomi Sutherland**, 17, from Interlochen Arts Academy, who performed Claude Debussy's *Danse sacrée et danse profane*. Each received a \$1,000 award in addition to the honors.

The Bolz Young Artist Competition includes two preliminary rounds earlier in the year in which young musicians from across Wisconsin compete for the chance to perform with the MSO in the Final Forte broadcast.

Tune into the encore broadcasts: Wisconsin Public Television, Sunday, Apr. 2 at 2:00 p.m.; Milwaukee Public Television, Sunday, Apr. 2 at 1:00 p.m.

The Bolz Young Artist Competition is made possible by a generous endowment from The Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation.

Major funding for the Final Forte broadcasts was provided by Diane Ballweg, Julie and Larry Midtbo, Fred and Mary Mohs, Stephen Morton, Joe and Mary Ellyn Sensenbrenner, and The Boldt Company. Additional funding was provided by the A. Paul Jones Charitable Trust, James Dahlberg and Elsebet Lund, W. Jerome Frautschi, Ann and Roger Hauck, Elaine and Nicholas Mischler, Kato Perlman, Sentry Insurance Company, the Estate of Norene A. Smith, Paul Guthrie *in memory of Ella Guthrie*, Judith and Nick Topitzes, and Friends of Wisconsin Public Television.



## **ABOUT THE MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The Madison Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 91<sup>st</sup> season in 2016-2017 and its 23<sup>rd</sup> season under the leadership of Music Director John DeMain. The MSO has grown to be one of America's leading regional orchestras, providing Madison and south central Wisconsin with cultural and educational opportunities to interact with great masterworks and top-tier guest artists from around the world. Find more information at [madisonsymphony.org](http://madisonsymphony.org)

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