



Schwab

ACADEMY OF MUSIC

SATURDAY, JULY 20 / 4:00 PM

**HENRY SCHWAB VIOLIN & VIOLA
COMPETITION**

SCHWAB SUMMER ORCHESTRA



PHOTO: BRANDON T. KING / THEOTUS MEDIA

14TH ANNUAL
HENRY SCHWAB VIOLIN & VIOLA COMPETITION
ACCOMPANIED BY THE SCHWAB SUMMER ORCHESTRA
ASHLEY WALTERS, CONDUCTOR

SATURDAY–SUNDAY, JULY 20 & 21, 2024

WELCOME to the 14th Annual Henry Schwab Violin & Viola Competition! We are so thrilled to present our incredibly talented soloists: Beatrice Jiang, Leonora Vukovitz, and John Wu (Category A) and Kyler Chu, Carlos Ozuna, Alan Wu, Idan Yohanan, Isabella Zhou (Category B).

These soloists have impressed us with their high level of musicality and professionalism, and we are thrilled to present them in two beautiful programs this weekend, accompanied by our incredible Schwab Summer Orchestra. We would like to thank this weekend's judges, Sara Parkins and Sarah Thornblade – as well as our judges for the competition's preliminary rounds, Lorenz Gamma and Diane Gilbert – for their time, their constructive feedback, and their support and kindness to our soloists. We are excited to see what lies ahead for all of our promising finalists.

As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you again soon!

~ Ashley Walters

CATEGORY A SOLOISTS (JULY 20)

Beatrice Jiang, Leonora Vukovitz, John Wu

CATEGORY B SOLOISTS (JULY 21)

Kyler Chu, Carlos Ozuna, Alan Wu, Idan Yohanan, Isabella Zhou

PRELIMINARY JUDGES

Lorenz Gamma, Diane Gilbert

FINAL ROUND JUDGES

Sara Parkins, Sarah Thornblade



SCHWAB ACADEMY ORCHESTRA
ASHLEY WALTERS, CONDUCTOR

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024
VENTURA COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

PROGRAM

Violin Concerto, op. 14 Samuel Barber
I. Allegro (1906–1975)
II. Andante
III. Presto
Leonora Vukovitz, violin

Violin Concerto No. 4 in D minor, op. 31..... Henri Vieuxtemps
I. Andante (1820–1881)
II. Adagio religioso
III. Scherzo: Vivace
IV. Finale marziale: Andante - Allegro
John Wu, violin

(INTERMISSION)

Violin Concerto, op. 14 Samuel Barber
I. Allegro (1906–1975)
II. Andante
III. Presto
Beatrice Jiang, violin

[instagram.com/schwabacademy](https://www.instagram.com/schwabacademy)

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2024 FINAL ROUND JUDGES



Sara Parkins, an award-winning violinist, is celebrated for her roles as a chamber music performer and studio musician in major motion pictures, television, and recordings. She was part of the Grammy-winning Angeles Quartet for their complete Haydn String Quartets on Philips Classics.

Previously, she performed with the renowned Rosetti String Quartet and currently holds the Principal Second position with the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra. Sara is a member of both the Grammy-nominated Eroica Trio, known internationally for their Beethoven Triple Concerto performances, and the Eclipse Quartet, specializing in 20th and 21st-century music and acclaimed for premiering numerous works on labels like Bridge, Albany, and Tzadik. Sara also teaches and gives master classes at various festivals and workshops including Apple Hill Festival, Strings in the Mountains, and the Santa Barbara Chamber Music Workshops. Sara has toured worldwide as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer, participating in prestigious festivals and holding degrees from Juilliard Pre College, Curtis Institute of Music, and SUNY Stony Brook.



Sarah Thornblade has been described as “a marvelously versatile violinist” (Santa Barbara News) whose playing has been described as “rapturously winning” by the Los Angeles Times. She is an avid chamber musician, a grand prize winner of the Coleman and Fischhoff chamber music competitions, and is the associate principal second violin of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

A founding member of the Eclipse Quartet, an ensemble dedicated to performing twentieth-century and contemporary music, the Eclipse quartet has been the recipient of an Aaron Copland Fund recording grant and has recorded for Tzadik, New World, Cold Blue, and Bridge recording labels. She was a founding member of the Arianna String Quartet, which won grand prizes at the Carmel chamber music competitions, and she has also performed with Xtet, Camerata Pacifica, Jacaranda, and the Auros Group for New Music in Boston. Sarah is on the faculty of Pomona College and is also an active recording musician for film and television. She holds degrees from Indiana University and Northern Illinois University.

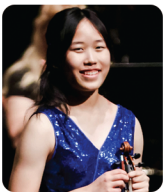
2024 FINALISTS - CATEGORY A



Leonora Vukovitz, 13, studies under her mother Deborah Vukovitz at Thousand Oaks Musicians' Studio, playing violin since toddlerhood. She's performed solo with LAYP orchestra at venues like Thayer Hall and Fairwinds West Hills Retirement Home. As a violist, she won first prize in the 2023 Henry Schwab Competition and the CalASTA Competition and has soloed at Carnegie Hall in 2023 and 2024, winning prizes in international competitions. As a violinist, she won second prize in the Southern California Junior Bach Festival. Winner of the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic Concerto Competition, Leonora soloed as both violist and violinist. Homeschooled, her interests span composing music, writing, fashion design, acting, environmental advocacy, and legal studies.



John Wu, 14, is in the 8th grade at Medea Creek Middle School. Beginning violin at age 6 1/2 with Kate Carter at Northwestern Music Academy, he now studies under Sam Fischer at the Colburn School of Performing Arts. Both Fischer and previous teacher Sarah Plum influence his playing and musical perspective. John has performed Schubert's Sonatina in D major, op. 137 with pianist Leo Dinner and participated in a masterclass with Ken Aiso on Vieuxtemps' Violin Concerto No. 4. He won Third Place in Junior Chamber Music's 2023 Young Musicians Concerto Competition, advancing to the State Finals, and he placed second in ASTA LA Solo Competition's Junior 1 Category. John enjoys discussing and listening to music, hiking, and seeking new challenges.



Beatrice Jiang (16) is an 11th grader at Westlake High School. Studying under Shuwei Liu since 2017, her awards include Gold at the Advanced Contemporary Music Festival and the Pelican International Music Competition, the Grand Award at the United Stars Music Competition, and second in the Schwab Competition. Beatrice toured Europe with Junior Chamber Music and plays first violin in LA Youth Orchestra and LA Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. She is a straight-A student with two Presidential Awards, and is also interested in engineering and scientific research; she has had several technical conference papers published. She is the state winner of the Future Business Leaders of America Conference.

2024 FINALISTS - CATEGORY B



Kyler Chu, a 7th grader from Camarillo, has studied under Gulia Gurevich, Shuwei Liu, and is currently a student of Niv Ashkenazi. He has soloed with the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic and is a 3-time finalist in the Schwab Competition. As concertmaster of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra RBCO, he's performed at Carnegie Hall and Ambassador Auditorium. Kyler is also passionate about tennis and he competed in the 2024 First Lego League Championship Robotics competition in Houston.



Carlos Ozuna has been surrounded by music his entire life. He was introduced to playing in an orchestra when he moved to Ventura and began at Balboa Middle School. During his senior year Carlos performed the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, and was awarded the Director's Award for Orchestra, multiple Outstanding Performer awards, and the National School Orchestra Award. Carlos has been self-taught until recently, when he began studying with Dr. Andrew Tholl at Ventura College.



Alan Wu (15), is in the 10th grade at Westlake High School and is a student of Elise Goodman. He's active in the Music Uniting Societies Everywhere Club, which brings music to retirement homes. He is a 2-time winner at the Contemporary Music Festival, performed at the Gold Medal Recital, and won first place in the VOCE Branch competition. He was selected as a soloist for the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic at the Civic Arts Plaza.



Idan Yohanan (18), attends Agoura High School, where he plays in the orchestra and is a part of the Tri-M Music Honors Society. He is the principal second violinist in CVYO. Idan has attended both Idlywild and the Montecito Music Festival. He has participated in masterclass with Lorenz Gamma and Samuel Fischer, and is a student of Elise Goodman. He has been accepted to CSUN, CSULB, Redlands University, Chapman University, and APU.



Isabella Zhou is a student of ShihLan Liu Lavner. She was awarded 1st prize in MTAC's concerto competition and placed in SCJBF All String Regional Bach Festival. She has played in masterclasses with Martin Beaver and Alexander Treger and has performed on recitals at the Colburn School since 2020. Isabella is committed to environmental causes and helps tutor young violinists from Wuhan, China. Isabella enjoys playing piano, ballet, swimming, painting, and making Chinese pasta and dumplings.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Miriam & Henry Schwab Academy of Music

provides opportunities in chamber music and orchestra to student instrumentalists through three main components.

The Schwab Summer Academy is an intensive program held each July. Participants study and perform a series of concerts alongside notable **professional mentors**. The **Extension Program** extends this mentorship throughout the year.

The Summer Academy dovetails with the **Henry Schwab Violin & Viola Competition**, a concerto competition that highlights talented young soloists accompanied by the Academy Orchestra.

“The Schwab Academy teaches more than just music,” says music director **Ashley Walters**. “It teaches students to develop a strong work ethic, how to work as a team player to meet goals, and provides students of all ages with an incredible community that can offer support and guidance as they pursue their dreams.”

STAFF

Ashley Walters
MUSIC DIRECTOR /
CONDUCTOR

Brian Hotchkin
MARKETING /
PR / DESIGN

John Hester
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

SUPPORT

Miriam Schwab’s passion for music and her generous support of student musicians made the The Schwab Academy of Music possible. If you would like to help us strengthen and grow Miriam’s vision for the Academy, please consider making a donation through the **Ventura College Foundation**. For more information, contact Director of Planned Giving, Gerry Pantoja.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Jennifer Kalfsbeek-Goetz
Anthony Mansueto
Brent Wilson
Gabriel Aragon
Jamie Birkett
Grace Douglas
David Howarth
Anne King
Brandon King
Tyson Sauthoff
Laura Solis
Jeanne Tanner
Ventura Music Festival
Lalé Welsh

STILL TO COME

HENRY SCHWAB VIOLIN/VIOLA COMPETITION
Sunday, July 21 – 4 PM

FLUTE

Dylan Gruber
 Trisha Merete
 Dori Riggs §
 Kathy Navarro Sochel

OBOE

Fred Beerstein §
 Kimaree Gilad ∞^
 Owen Zgliniec

CLARINET

Brian Walsh ^
 Micha Wright §

BASSOON

Nicholas Akdag ∞^
 Maciej Flis ^

HORN

Joseph Fong
 Katie Furado §
 Beau Lockhart
 Jon Titmus ∞^

TRUMPET

Marla Ascencion
 David Costello §
 Dave Pittel ∞^
 Israel Ruiz

TROMBONE

Jared Geronimo
 Gwang Kim ∞^
 Sebastian Scott
 Carlos Vargas

VIOLIN I

Caroline Allison
 Tamsen Beseke §
 Geraldine Cabanban
 Eric Clark ^
 Liah Kraft
 Cosima Luther §
 Carlos Ozuna °
 CONCERTMASTER

VIOLIN II

Julissa Bozman ^
 Keola Decker
 Kirsten Fife §
 Axel Griswold °
 Xaman Kryger §
 Susan Philbrick
 Isabella Vogelaar

VIOLA

Alex Fager °
 Diane Gilbert ^
 Connie Hood
 Laura Jessen §
 Cynthia Lee
 Rebecca Lee
 Karen Long §

CELLO

Erika Duke-Kirkpatrick ^
 Maya Ferkel §
 Nathan Gallardo
 Alanm Magana Gonzalez
 David Mason §
 Skyla O'Connor
 Anna Rowlands °

BASS

Nathan Cardenas
 Stephen Pfeifer §
 Mattie Rowlands °
 Donovan Rutledge

HARP

Amy Wilkins §

PIANO/CELESTE

Ovanes Arakelyan ∞^

PERCUSSION

Jordan Cucuruto ∞^
 Matthew Leveque §

- ° Principal
- ^ Schwab Mentor
- ∞ VCPA Faculty
- § Guest Artist

COMMUNITY PARTNER: VENTURA MUSIC FESTIVAL

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JULY 25-28 & AUG 2-4 **2024**

SAVE 20% ON TICKETS
 CODE: SCHWAB

A group of diverse musicians, including a cellist, violinist, guitarist, and keyboardist, are posed together against a dark background with stylized white and green patterns. A QR code is visible in the upper left corner of the banner.