

Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award

Liya Jin



Liya Jin is an exceptionally talented young musician who has engaged in the musical life of the community as a performer, leader, and volunteer. Liya Jin is a seventeen-year-old senior at Portage Central High School and the Kalamazoo Math and Science Center. Liya plans to attend Harvard University in fall 2018 and play violin in the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra.

As a preschool student, Liya's interest in music was piqued by Kalamazoo Symphony's Family Discovery Concerts and Instrument Petting Zoo. Liya first took up the violin at the age of four with Dana Duncan-Davis of the Suzuki Academy of Kalamazoo. She then went on to study with Professor Renata Artman Knific at Western Michigan University, who remains her teacher to this day.

Liya's accomplishments as a performing musician are extraordinary.

- Liya has been a Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra (KJSO) member since 6th-grade
- Liya has served as KJSO Concertmaster, the top leadership position, for two years and will be concertmaster for the upcoming KJSO trip to South Africa.
- Liya has been the first violinist of the KJSO Aurora String Quartet, an ensemble of KJSO that receives coaching from Kalamazoo Symphony musicians.
- In 2016, Liya was the winner of the KJSO's Concerto Competition, earning the opportunity to perform as featured violin soloist with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony.
- At the age of 12, Liya performed as soloist with the Kalamazoo Chamber Music Workshop orchestra.
- Liya won solo opportunities with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra (KSO) numerous occasions: winner of the KSO Youth Soloist Concerto Competition in 2013 and 2016 and KSO soloist at a Family Discovery Concert in 2014.
- Liya was a 2015 KSO/WMUK Bravo! competition winner both as a member of the Aurora String Quartet and as a solo pianist.
- A long-time participant of the Spotlight on Youth Competitions, she has performed as both a violin and piano soloist for the organization in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2012, and 2013.
- She has appeared live on WMUK 102.1 as part of a viola-violin duo.

Eager to grow and learn, Liya has attended competitive and highly respected music programs locally, regionally and nationally including:

- The Credo-Oberlin program at Oberlin Conservatory in the summer of 2015

- SEMINAR at Western Michigan University (WMU) during the summer of 2014
- Calvin String Summit in Grand Rapids in the summer of 2013

Through these music programs and the Stulberg International String Competition program, Liya has been chosen for Master Class appearances with renowned musicians including Sarah Chang, Midori, Donald Weilerstein, and Rachel Barton Pine.

Liya is also an accomplished pianist and has studied with Annie Leong since the age of six.

- She has placed 1st in the Intermediate Division, 2nd in the Junior Division, and received an honorable mention in the Senior Division of the Michigan State Music Teacher Association (MMTA) State Day competitions in 2010, 2015, and 2016 respectively, and participated as a finalist five times in total.
- At the Gene Marcus Piano Competition at Indiana Purdue University, Liya placed 1st and 2nd in the Junior Division in 2015 and 2016 respectively, and was the 1st-prize winner in the Senior Division in 2017.
- The 2013 20th/21st Century Piano Festival and Competition at Grand Valley State University awarded her with 2nd place in the Junior Division.
- In 2017, she was invited to participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival as a pianist, through the MMTA.

In addition to her passion for music, Liya pursues academics vigorously:

- She attends the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center (KAMSC) and dual-enrolls at WMU. Liya is a graduate of the Academically Talented Youth Program and spends her summers involving herself in science and technology (whether at university-sponsored camps or volunteering at STEM summer programs for children).
- In 2018, Liya was a National Merit Scholar, First-Place Team member at the 2018 Southwest Michigan Science and Engineering Fair, Competitive Exam Finalist at the American Chemical Society Kalamazoo Section 2018, Second-Place Team member in the advance division at the Michigan State University 2017 High School Programming Competition.
- Yearly, from 2015-2018, Liya has received the Portage Central High School (PCHS) Gold Academic Award, the PCHS Community Service award, High Honors at KAMSC, and an Outstanding Project Title Award at KAMSC for her work in research.
- In 2016, her research team's project won the First Place Research Project Title at KAMSC, and in 2017, she and her research partner placed first at the Southwest Michigan Science and Engineering Fair, thus earning them spots as finalists in the Intel International Science and Engineering fair.
- Additionally, in 2016 and 2017, Liya was recognized as an American Chemical Society Competitive Exam Finalist.
- The National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) also awarded Liya a National Certificate of Distinction in 2016, and Liya became an NCWIT Affiliate Awardee in 2017.
- Liya was recognized as a Student Excellence Awardee at the 2017 Air Zoo Science Innovation Hall of Fame Awards.

Liya is an enthusiastic and active contributor to our community and abroad. Locally, Liya has mentored children in the Kalamazoo Kids in Tune after-school music program and engaged with senior citizens at the Upjohn Rehabilitation Center and lead musician and mentor in her church music program. Her work has been recognized by Portage Central High School's Community Service award. Liya has also served

as a leader/mentor in villages in Taiwan during the summers of 2016 and 2017 taught English and arts to elementary school children during English-Chinese Bilingual Summer Camps.

Lee Fletcher, Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society's Executive Director, shares the following:

"Having had the honor to watch so many young Kalamazoo Junior Symphony students develop into fine musicians, outstanding scholars, and impactful citizens of their communities, I feel that Liya Jin typifies these qualities and more. She has worked hard and won acclaim in her musical and academic studies all the while extending herself to her community by volunteering at the Upjohn Rehabilitation Center as well as at Kalamazoo Kids in Tune as a mentor for at-risk elementary school children who aspire to become musicians themselves. She does all of this with grace and humility simply wishing to do her best to carve out a place that will make a difference in the world."

Liya Jin will continue her musical growth while attending Harvard University. Harvard, a liberal arts college, has an orchestra in conjunction with Radcliff College and Liya has an audition for the ensemble in the fall. Liya's goal is gain a leadership position of Concertmaster or Assistant Concertmaster of the Harvard-Radcliff Orchestra during her four years at Harvard. Liya realizes that private lessons are needed to reach her goal, but Harvard does not have a dedicated professor of violin, so she hopes to continue violin lessons with one of the outstanding violin teachers at the New England Conservatory.