



Spring & Summer 2018

# Notes

CELEBRATION OF STRINGS



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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the WKU Pre-College Strings Program newsletter for Spring and Summer 2018! I am so happy to share with you news about our program and activities, to update you on the many accomplishments of our students and faculty members, and to celebrate the inspiring work of everyone involved in the program.

I was thrilled to hear in our student performances how much progress they have all been making, from “Twinkle” to Shostakovich in many steps. It shows the value of persistence, intelligent practice, intelligent listening, and inspiring teaching. I am especially proud of how self-motivated our students become, gaining skills and enthusiasm that will last them a lifetime of making music, no matter what their future occupations will be.

Thanks so much to our wonderful guest artists. Professor Stephen Miahky coached three WKU college students and taught the Violin Ensemble. How much students can learn from a great teacher with a fresh perspective! Dr. Wesley Baldwin gave an enthusiastic cello master class that renewed the enthusiasm of the students who took part, not to mention all those who listened. He also gave an inspiring recital.

All the faculty performances went well this year. And such a great variety of beautiful music, by well-known composers (Beethoven, Borodin, Brahms, Bruch, Debussy, Kodály, Martinů, Mozart, Piazzolla, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Ysaÿe) and not so well-known ones (Minsky, Rose, Summer, Vitali).



I am so excited to share that our project Bridging Cultures Through Music is off to a great start! We started twelve students in the Bowling Green High School English as a Second Language (ESL) program on the violin this semester. I want to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Carrigan and to Mrs.

Belt, ESL teacher at Bowling Green High, for their help in getting this program started. They took extra time out of their busy schedules every Tuesday and Thursday to stay and attend the classes. I admire their dedication and commitment to creating this wonderful learning environment for all the students of the program.

We had another great Suzuki Book Two Training with Edmund Sprunger in May. I am always delighted that we can bring such inspiring and insightful teachers to

our campus. The fourteen participants for this event learned a great deal and gained insights into the teaching of Suzuki.

How wonderful to extend special recognition to our students who served in local, All-District, and Kentucky Music Educators Association All-State orchestras, taught with me in Tanzania, and gave so much to the community by performing in nursing homes and volunteering in projects (Bridging Cultures).

And last but definitely NOT least, many thanks to ALL our teachers, pianists, and parents who made another wonderful year possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ching-Yi Lin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Ching-Yi Lin

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Ching-Yi Lin

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# Notes

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Beginner Violins and Violin I Group

# STUDENT PERFORMANCES

## **Garret Barr Suzuki Book One Recital**

**February 10**

*by Garrett Barr*

I really enjoyed playing my Book One Completion recital. I was nervous beforehand, but was very happy once I started playing. I also liked getting to see all my friends there. It was a lot of hard work getting ready, but I had fun and hope I inspired other kids to play music. The cookies were great too!

## **Spring Solo Recital**

**March 24**

*by Elli Trivizadakis*

At first I was nervous, but then I realized it wasn't so scary after all and actually a lot of fun. I enjoyed it very much. I can't wait for the next recital! I also enjoyed listening to the other students play.

## **Anna and Grace's Recital**

**April 8**

*by LeeAnna Sewell*

Anna Darling and Grace Kim performed a joint recital in the Recital Hall of Fine Arts Center. Grace started the recital with the Violin Sonata in G major by Mozart followed by Anna's performance of Bach's Sonata in A minor. Also on the program were Bach's G minor Adagio and Fugue, Sibelius' D minor concerto, and Saint-Saëns' Concerto No. 3.



Arivumani, Kaitlin, and Alex

## **Cellobration**

**April 29**

*by Alex Minter*

Congratulations to the cello students of Sarah Berry, Shelly Burgess, and Josh Propst for a wonderful recital!

The Pre-College Strings Program has taught me to play beautiful music on the cello in a way that is enjoyable. I participated in group lessons with others, who helped me learn in different ways. The teachers are wonderful and patient with everyone, and I couldn't have had a better experience.

## **Spring Violin/Viola Solo Recitals**

**May 5**

*by Caroline Powers*

I am a violin student of Prof. Andy Braddock. I have played the violin for two years. I have learned so much about how to play, finger positions, and how to stand when playing. I love



Garrett Barr, Suzuki Book One Recital



La'el Ricketts

playing solos, because it makes me a better violinist.

Congratulations to our violin and viola students who performed in one of the three recitals on May 5th! Special thanks go to our pianists, Marcia Hawkins, Grace Kim, and Ken Stein.

### **Pre-College Strings Program Spring Group Recital May 12**

by Grace Kim

The program began with the cello group class in an enjoyable mix of pieces. Mary-Zuki Blues had nice Swing style and good shifting. Beginner Violin and Violin I impressed the audience with their improvement during the year, especially in the Hot Cross Buns Variations. Violin and Viola II looked happy on stage, making me reflect on communicating with my own audience as a violinist. Violin and Viola III gave a fun performance of *La Cucaracha*. Violin and Viola IV class played beautifully, producing a ringing tone, especially on the Sonata for Two Violins by Tartini. James Han impressed the audience with his performance of Vitali's *Chaconne*. David Wiles performed splendidly in the first movement of Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 107, showcasing a variety of techniques. The recital closed with the Violin Ensemble performing the exciting *Hoe Down*, which was received with great applause.

It's wonderful to see these group recitals. I always learn a lot from the performances, and from witnessing how much effort parents and teachers make.

### **Talent Show May 14**

Lillian and Garrett Barr performed at Foundation Christian Academy's talent show. Lillian played *Twinkle* and Garrett played *Star Wars*.



2018 Spring Cellobration



Asa and Kollin at Spring Group Recital

# Community Outreach Performances



Bowling Green Ballpark

## Morningside Retirement Village April 8

To get ready for my recital, I played some pieces at two other places: at my school, and at the Humane Society. My real Suzuki Book One Recital was at Morningside Retirement Village. I really enjoyed playing all the pieces, because I love to play the violin. My favorite piece is *Happy Farmer*, because it has stopped bows. I am looking forward to learning more songs with my teacher, Mr. Andy.

—Morgan Jones

## Village Manor April 22

I went to the Christian Health Center on Western Street on a Sunday afternoon because I wanted to help the elderly. They cannot go out to concerts—whether it's a violin concert, a piano concert, Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, or the Haschak Sisters. I came to them so they could hear beautiful music inside their building. I have done this twice now, and both experiences were awesome. I hope you sign up to play for the elderly: it's truly a great experience. I'm not lying.

—Hera Joo



Village Manor Performance

I was happy when I was able to play for the people at Village Manor. I got to practice playing my solo piece in front of a group and I also got to entertain them. I think they liked my piece, because some of them clapped when I finished.

—Ava Luis, age 10

## Bowling Green Ballpark April 23

Performing at the Ballpark was fun. We each performed a solo and we also practiced *Polka*, our group piece. The summer program lets us perform on stage, which is also fun. All in all, my first year at the string program was nice. I learned a lot.

—Graham Browder-Seguín

## Bowling Green Retirement Village May 14

I wasn't nervous. I was really happy, because the music made everyone smile!

—Lillian Barr

# FACULTY PERFORMANCES

## Hidden Gems of Eastern Europe

Violinists Brandon Christensen and Ching-Yi Lin with violist Andy Braddock presented a program titled Hidden Gems of Eastern Europe: a collection of lyrical and little-known virtuosic works by Dvořák, Kodály, and Martinů for the unusual and ethereal combination of two violins and viola. This program was performed at Christ Church as part of the Telluride Camerata Chamber Music Concert in Telluride, Colorado, the Third Avenue Arts concert series in Durango, Colorado, and Shadow Case of Dustin in New Mexico in late January.

## Wesley Baldwin Cello Recital

by Abby Preston

On January 31st, guest artist Dr. Wesley Baldwin gave a recital at WKU's Recital Hall. Dr. Baldwin, from the University of Tennessee, has appeared as a soloist with the Laredo Philharmonic, was awarded a Tennessee Arts Commission Individual Performing Artist Fellowship, and founded the Plymouth String Quartet. He began the program with Aaron Minsky's *American Etudes*. This collection, the first modern cello etudes to be published by a large publishing corporation, was created to give cellists more musical opportunities outside the stereotypical classical refined sound. It uses various technical elements to create a laid-back, alternative sound.



Schnittke Violin Sonata No. 1 with Aram Arakelyan at Indiana University Summer Music Festival

Dr. Baldwin also performed Mark Summer's *Julie-O*, a piece that has become extremely popular among cellists and was even used in an Apple commercial. Both works reminded me of artists such as 2Cellos, who create adaptations of popular songs.

The second half of the concert consisted of Brahms's Piano Quartet in C minor, in which Dr. Baldwin was joined by Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, Professor Andrew Braddock, and Dr. Zachary Lopes, all of WKU.

## Violin and Viola Duo Recital

On February 10th, Ching-Yi Lin and Andrew Braddock performed music for violin and viola in a recital in Cole Concert Hall on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. The program included four works. The Violin and Viola Duo No. 1 in G major by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composed in 1783, treats the instruments equally and is a staple in the violin-viola repertoire. Sonata for Violin Solo in





**Congratulations to Ying Cheng and WKU Pre-College Strings Program faculty member Emily Vaughn for a beautiful recital on May 19th.**

D minor, Op. 27 No. 3, “Ballade” by Eugène Ysaÿe, is the shortest of his sonatas, in one movement, modeled on the piano ballades by Chopin. *Three Madrigals* by the Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů is one of the best-known and most frequently performed 20th-century compositions for violin and viola duet. Finally, *Three Caprices* for violin and viola was composed by Michael Alec Rose, a prolific American composer of symphonic and chamber music. The guest artists also taught a master class that day.

### Commemorating Debussy’s Centennial by Mariah Thomas

On March 25th, faculty members and students at WKU commemorated Claude Debussy’s centennial. Pianist Sylvia Kersenbaum opened with the famous *Claire de lune* (Moonlight), inspired by a love poem, *Arabesque*, an early piece that established Debussy’s impressionistic style, and the dissonant *Feux d’artifice* (Fireworks). Desirée De Logé followed with the haunting *Syrinx* for solo flute. Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, violin, and Dr. Zachary Lopes, piano, then played arrangements of *La fille aux cheveux de lin* (The girl with the

flaxen hair) and the waltz *La plus que lente* (The more than slow) as well as the Sonata for Violin and Piano, Debussy’s last composition. The internationally renowned opera singer Amanda Biggs, accompanied by Miss Kersenbaum, sang Romance, and two movements from the cantata *The Prodigal Son*, for which Debussy won the Prix de Rome in 1884.

### Faculty Quartet Performance

June 2

Emily Vaughn performed in her quartet, Melodic Four, with Steven Stewart and Grace Kim, violin, and Morgan Thomas, cello. Works performed included Shostakovich’s Quartet No. 8, Borodin’s String Quartet No. 1, and Beethoven’s String Quartet Op. 18 No. 2.

### American Viola Society Festival

June 13–16

Andrew Braddock gave a presentation at the American Viola Society festival, held at the Colburn School of Music, entitled “The Sixth’s Source: Creating Your Own Edition of the Bach Cello Suites.” Professor Braddock is the editor of the *Journal of the American Viola Society* and a member of the AVS board.

WKU professor emeritus Dwight Pounds also gave a presentation, “The History of the Primrose International Viola Competition—Five Decades,” and was moderator for a panel discussion on William Primrose with four famous violists, all of them former students of the great master.



Andrew Braddock presenting at the American Viola Society Festival

### Indiana University Summer Music Concert Series July 5 and 14

Ching-Yi Lin performed Schnittke’s Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 with pianist Aram Arakelyan and Prokofiev’s Sonata for Two Violins with Erin Aldridge at the Indiana University 2018 Summer Music Concert Series.



ESL students with faculty and assistants

# BRIDGING CULTURES THROUGH MUSIC

We are delighted and excited to report that Bridging Cultures Through Music was a big success this past spring semester. Five teachers and three volunteers taught the violin to English as a Second Language (ESL) students in Bowling Green High School every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

This project has three main benefits: 1) Four WKU students gained hands-on teaching experience in an unconventional setting. 2) Twelve ESL students, many of them refugees living in the Bowling Green community, received two group lessons per week. 3) Three young musicians in our community currently studying the



Meshaki and Jermie

violin were given the opportunity to be student helpers.

This project is funded by the 2017 WKU Sisterhood Grant and will continue for at least two more years while funding lasts. It is our plan to expand and reach out to more ESL students this coming fall semester, 2018.

Malika Brower and Evan Patriatan, WKU Music Education majors, wrote:

“We had the privilege of assisting Dr. Lin with this project. We learned that it is important to be clear and direct with our instructions, especially with students who are learning the English language. By observing Dr. Lin

and assisting we learned that we have to try our best to get to students' level of understanding. We must be intentional about every word we say when we explain a new concept.

"Each week we could tell by the students' excited faces that they were intrigued to be learning to play and they did not give up. We were impressed to witness what these students learned in such a short time. It was truly a joy to work with these students. We feel that this project gave us, prospective music teachers, valuable experience."

Nick Kang, student at Bowling Green High School, told us:

"Volunteering in the Bridging Cultures Through Music Program was an excellent way to share my passion for music with fellow students and communicate with some that I never had contact with before. Although I was one of the student helpers, I also learned a lot from the ESL students that were taught. They taught me their cultures, their jokes, and the jubilation that comes from sharing music with others. With the wonderful WKU student helpers, fellow student helpers,

teacher helpers, and Dr. Lin, I would say this was one of my best experiences ever."

Marliese Belt, ESL teacher at the high school, was also enthusiastic:

"Thank you for inviting me to be part of this project! It has been a treat working with the students and seeing them grow in their confidence, proficiency, and musicality."

For more information about how you can volunteer for or donate to this project, please contact Dr. Ching-Yi Lin at [strings@wku.edu](mailto:strings@wku.edu).



Evan Patriatan leads bow games at Bowling Green Junior High School

### Teachers

- Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, WKU Associate Professor
- Emily Vaughn, WKU Pre-College Strings Program faculty
- Malika Brower, WKU Music Education major
- Anna Darling, WKU Violin Performance major
- Evan Patriatan, WKU Music Education major

### Student Assistants

- Emerson Carrigan, Bowling Green Junior High School
- Zoe Hu, Bowling Green Junior High School
- Nick Kang, Bowling Green High School



Final day of spring classes



Dr. Wesley Baldwin and Amelia Allen



From left: Professor Stephen Miahky, Zoe Hu, Sonia Conte, Anayah and Liyah Ricketts, and Isaac Malott

# GUEST ARTISTS

## **Wesley Baldwin Cello Masterclass, January 30** *by Amelia Allen*

Working with Dr. Baldwin was a great experience and really fun. Not only did he give me great advice about the piece that I am currently working on, he also gave me great advice on getting a better sound out of my cello in general. I loved his enthusiasm while he was helping me and all other cellists.

## **Stephen Miahky Violin Masterclass, April 10** *by Malika Brower*

The WKU Pre-College Strings Program hosted a Violin Masterclass instructed by Professor Stephen Miahky, the Joseph Joachim Professor of Violin at Vanderbilt University. Violinists Grace Kim, Malika Brower, and Anna Darling performed for him.

Grace Kim began the Masterclass by playing the first movement of the Sibelius Violin Concerto. Professor Miahky discussed how Grace can improve her sound production by connecting bow changes and using levels of the right arm. He encouraged her to play more into the string to produce a bigger sound, also making a contrast in the articulation of her phrasing in order to create the distinctive mood and style of this movement.

Malika Brower played the first movement of the Kabalevsky Violin Concerto. Professor Miahky worked with her on sustaining notes and keeping the same energy through the repeated melody. He prompted her to move the phrase forward, even on short bow-strokes. He also explained that in playing continuous string-crossings, it

is advantageous to use less bow and a more subtle motion. When it came to vibrato, Professor Miahky encouraged Malika to vibrate through groups of notes instead of thinking about each note by itself. “Group thinking” helps to avoid tension in the left hand.

Anna Darling performed the third movement of the Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto. Professor Miahky worked with her on her bow-hold at the frog and how to improve intonation. For playing four-note chords, he talked about the importance of letting the frog and bow do more of the work, rather than putting all the control in the hand, which can lead to the bow hand locking up and make it difficult to create a full sound.

The masterclass concluded with *Hoe Down*, performed by the WKU Pre-College Strings’ Violin Ensemble.

# Suzuki Book Two Training

*“Games and fun are useful when the parent and teacher use them to help the child metabolize the frustration that erupts until a sense of self-discipline has fully developed. Until then—and it may take years—empathy is often much more useful than a hasty search for a ‘fun activity.’”*

—ED SPRUNGER

Thirteen violinists and a cellist gathered at Western Kentucky University for the Suzuki Book Two Training hosted by Dr. Lin and taught by Edmund Sprunger on May 14–18. Mr. Sprunger is a registered Suzuki Association of the Americas teacher trainer and the author of two books, *Helping Parents Practice* and *Building Violin Skills*. The Unit Two training consisted of fifteen hours of lecture and demonstration and eight hours of guided observation, in which twelve of our Pre-College Strings Program students played for Mr. Sprunger. We also observed a group class and learned so much from a parents meeting where Mr. Sprunger gave useful advice on helping parents practice with their child at home.



Suzuki Book Two Training participants



Jack Willis and Mr. Sprunger

*Ed Sprunger’s Suzuki Violin Unit Two teacher training course has helped me understand and relate to students’ mindset. As violin teachers, we should not only teach the mechanics of the violin but also help students grow to be their own person. It is important to create a positive experience in lessons to help achieve this. Children of all ages are our future. We must guide them to create their success on the violin and in their lives.*

—AMANDA HUMMEL, participant and faculty member  
at the University of Evansville Suzuki Violin Program

*I played Gavotte from Suzuki Book 2 for Mr. Sprunger. Then he had me work on a few exercises. I learned a new technique about shifting up just a bit and not using the same finger the whole time. It’s fun to use the new technique. Mr. Sprunger is encouraging and I can’t wait for him to come back next year!*

—JACK WILLIS, Pre-college Strings student

The final week of July brought together students and faculty members from around the world for an exciting week of music-making and learning. Students aged 4 through 18 participated in the WKU Summer String Institute, and were involved in group classes, orchestras, chamber music, master classes, a concerto competition, and some fun-filled outdoor excursions. The Twinklers, which included beginner and younger students, formed four group classes and honed their early violin skills. The groups came up with their own names: Presto Pals, The Twinkle Violins, Violin Diamonds, and Violin Warriors. Their teachers—Alyna Bloecher, Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, Emily Vaughn, and Juliet Yoshida—all had a fantastic time working with them for the entire week.

# 2018 Summer String Institute

BY ANDREW BRADDOCK



Alyna Bloecher Violin Masterclass with Leah Chen



Kate Jarbo at Twinklers rehearsal

The Young Musicians program featured a bountiful array of activities, all built around tackling challenging and exciting orchestra music. Led by conductors Patrick O'Rourke and Micah Claffey, the two orchestras showed an impressive level of skill in performing their demanding repertoire. In addition, students participated in sectionals taught by our faculty members, and performed in master classes as well. We were so lucky to have the Nashville Symphony's assistant

principal violist Shu-Zheng Yang visit and teach an invigorating and insightful class.

For the second year in a row, I introduced a new element to the WKU SSI. This year, we inaugurated the Chamber Music Intensive. This program consisted of three student string quartets that received daily (and sometimes twice-daily) coachings from faculty member Tim Strang. They showcased the fruits of their hard work in a Friday afternoon concert,

performing works by Dvořák, Haydn, and Mozart. I was so impressed with the amount of effort they put into learning this music in five short days! I can't wait to continue this program next year.

The 2018 WKU SSI also held its second annual Concerto Competition. The committee noted that the level was extraordinarily high, making their job very difficult. The winner was cellist Amelia Allen, who performed Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* with poise and beauty in the finale concert on Friday evening.

My daughter was so excited to attend WKU's Summer String Institute. It was incredible to be able to learn from top-notch professional musicians in a friendly and nurturing environment. Even though the program hosts students of all ages and skill levels, the superb faculty made sure each student was being challenged. At the end of the week everyone was proud of how much they had accomplished in such a short time together. We left with many new friends and are thankful for such an amazing experience.

– TERESA REED  
Nashville, TN



2018 WKU SSI, The Young Musicians

I formed strong friendships with some of the people I met. The faculty exceeded my expectations, making us feel comfortable, and offering encouragement and dedication to making each of us better musicians, individually and as a group.

– HANNAH WILBOURN  
participant from Crockett, Texas

I grew up going to this institute so it was very special to be able to come back and help with it this summer. During the week, I had the pleasure of assisting one of the four Twinkler Violin classes. Their energy was overwhelming, but all of the teachers were so experienced and they were able to help guide the kids excitement into learning how to play the violin. I was also able to coach and observe other teachers coaching one of the chamber groups. It was such a great week and a great opportunity to observe and learn from the students and teachers!

– LAYNE GREEN  
University of Louisville  
Viola Performance major

### Faculty

Alyna Bloecher  
*Bloecher Strings, Crockett, Texas*  
Andrew Braddock  
*WKU Viola Professor, Institute Director*  
Landon Case  
*Bowling Green Junior High  
Orchestra Director*  
Micah Claffey  
*Music Director,  
Idaho Fine Arts Academy*  
Dr. Ching-Yi Lin  
*WKU Violin Professor*  
Patrick O'Rourke  
*Orchestra Director,  
Bowling Green City School*  
Tim Strang  
*cellist, Omaha Symphony*  
Emily Vaughn  
*WKU Pre-College Strings  
Program faculty*  
Juliet Yoshida  
*violinist, Omaha Symphony*

### WKU SSI Student Assistants

Bailey Casper  
*Bloecher Strings*  
Anna Darling  
*WKU Violin Performance major*  
Layne Green  
*University of Louisville  
Viola Performance major*  
Emily Groom  
*Bloecher Strings*  
Nick Kang  
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Emily Simons  
*WKU Nursing major*  
Emma Watson  
*South Warren High School*  
Hannah Wilbourn  
*Bloecher Strings*  
David Wiles  
*WKU Music major*

# SPECIAL RECOGNITION



All-District Orchestra

## **All-District Orchestra**

*by Joseph Breslin*

When I auditioned for All-District, I was excited, because I remembered how fun it was before. I was accepted, and later I was told that I had been named Principal of the viola section, which shocked me. When I went to Van Meter for rehearsal, I felt that I should be a leader and set a good example. I loved that. I had a lot of fun just being in All-District. Everyone there is polite and upbeat, especially the faculty.

*Congratulations also to our student Zoe Hu, who was Concertmaster of the All-District Orchestra this year!*

## **KMEA All-State in Louisville**

*by Sonia Conte*

I will remember my experience at All-State in Louisville for the rest of my life. During my time there, I had the opportunity to play not just with strings but in a full orchestra. From that experience I have definitely grown as a violinist, and I would recommend it. You have the chance to play with musicians from all over Kentucky who are close to your level of playing. My time there has given me motivation to improve, and I look forward to next year.

*Congratulations also to our student Maxwell Conte, who also played in All-State Symphony Orchestra this year.*

## **Tennessee Cello Workshop**

*by Amelia Allen*

This year's Tennessee Cello Workshop was amazing! Not only did I meet a lot of other wonderful cellists, but I learned a lot about getting the best sound from my cello. We were able to take classes from different university professors and professional cellists. I was able to participate in a masterclass and observe several others. There were representatives of several cello shops, where we could try out as many different instruments as we wanted. Attending TCW also gave me a look into my future as a cellist and what to expect in the years to come.





Sonia and Maxwell Conte at KMEA All-State

*Amelia participated in the Tennessee Cello Workshop on February 23–25. She was a finalist in the Junior Division Competition and placed third playing Kol Nidrei (Max Bruch) and Orbit (Philip Glass).*

### **Student Research Conference**

Anna Darling shared her teaching experience in Tanzania with professors and peers at the Student Research Conference on Saturday, March 24. Anna was awarded first Place in her division! Congratulations, Anna!



Anna at Student Research Conference



Amelia with Dr. Wesley Baldwin of UT Knoxville



Ching-Yi Lin and Provost David Lee at Award Dinner

Dr. Ching-Yi Lin is the recipient of both the 2018 Potter College of Arts & Letters Teaching Award and the 2018 University Teaching Award. According to the WKU faculty award website, “faculty awards are given for excellence in the fields of teaching, research and creativity, public service, and student advisement. The college winners of each award are considered for the university-wide awards, and one overall winner in each category is chosen. The teaching award is given in recognition of the recipient’s teaching excellence as evidenced by effectiveness and ability to motivate and inspire students in the classroom and outside the classroom.”



From left: Zoe Hu, Malike Brower, Emerson Carrigan, Evan Patriatan, and Nick Kang

We would like to give a special shout out to our wonderful *Bridging Cultures Through Music Project* student assistants: Emerson Carrigan, Nick Kang, and Zoe Hu. Read more about this project on p. 8.

# Graduating Seniors, Maxwell and Jansenne



Maxwell Conte started to study cello with Sarah Berry in 2012. Studying cello has enabled him to play in his school orchestra, the Symphony at WKU, and the All-State Symphony Orchestra for four years, as well as at church services, in miscellaneous gigs, and with friends. Learning his favorite pieces and songs allowed him to ease his mind after many stressful days. This fall Maxwell will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he plans to continue his studies in chemistry and explore chemical engineering and related topics. He hopes to continue playing cello and piano, in addition to his hobbies of origami, thrift shopping, trying various foods, and writing about himself in the third person. He is grateful to the WKU Pre-College Strings Program for its supportive environment and many performance opportunities.

The WKU Pre-College Strings Program would also like to congratulate Jansenne Mitchell, who graduated from Barren County High School this spring. Jansenne is a Governor's Scholar and an AP Scholar. She also served as the Principal Cellist of the Bowling Green Youth Orchestra and Creativity Coordinator for the *Trojan Times* newspaper.

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## MY THOUGHTS ON TEACHING

*By Emily Vaughn*

Communication is essential to running the WKU Pre-College Strings Program—whether it is giving verbal or written updates to parents who no longer need to attend private lessons, teaching parents of younger students how to help their child at home, or enabling faculty members to keep in touch. Faculty meetings occur regularly where we discuss group classes and work together as a team to make sure that all students get what they need out of each lesson.

Because every student acquires skills and knowledge through slightly

different methods, it is my job to discover what will work in each case. When it comes to teaching, I have found that reviewing is the most important tool. Although a student may be on Book 10, there is still so much to learn from earlier books, even Book 1. Good technique, essential to string playing, can be worked on more easily through a scale or through a piece that the student is already familiar with. When reviewing an older piece, because the student already knows the music, we are able to focus on technical skills, such as posture, bow holds, bow division, tone, vibrato, and shifting,

improving the overall quality of the performance.

Group class is a unique and priceless experience in our program. Students have the opportunity to work alongside their classmates and grow together. Solos in group class are assigned to students so they can practice performing with piano and in front of an audience, not to mention that friendly competition helps to motivate students to practice even more at home. Finally, students develop the ability to listen and play together as a group—essential skills for playing in an orchestra.



Pre-College Strings Program  
Department of Music  
Western Kentucky University  
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11029  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1029

# BRIDGING CULTURES THROUGH MUSIC

Providing violin lessons to English  
as a Second Language Students  
at Bowling Green High School

**Interested in volunteer opportunities?  
Looking for ways to share your love for music?**

Contact Dr. Lin at [strings@wku.edu](mailto:strings@wku.edu) for more  
information about how you can get involved!

