



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2/04/22

CONTACT: Michele Holzman
General Manager, Civic Orchestra of Tucson
Phone: 520-730-3371
Email: manager@cotmusic.org

Young Artists' Competition Winners Announced as The Civic Orchestra of Tucson Sponsors Young Musicians in Annual Competition

[Tucson, Ariz.] On January 23, twenty-seven students ranging in age from 10 to 18 performed for and were adjudicated by professional music judges. Winners in each category receive cash prizes. Two Senior Division winners will also perform their solos this spring with The Civic Orchestra of Tucson. To date, the orchestra has hosted over 100 public performance opportunities for students through its Young Artists' Competition.

Now in its 37th year, the Young Artists' Competition has expanded to three solo categories: winds and percussion, piano, and strings. Each category is judged separately with both Junior and Senior Division winners. The Civic Orchestra also offers an Ensemble category, the first of its kind in Tucson. Groups of two to ten young musicians may apply together to perform a chamber work. The competition offers the serious music student a strong introduction to the audition process. Orchestra member and violinist Lee Oler started this competition 37 years ago and has been its Chair ever since.

On Sunday, May 1, Molly Urbon-Bonine, First Place Winner in the Senior Strings Division, will perform *Elegy for Cello and Orchestra* by Gabriel Fauré with the Civic Orchestra. Molly is a 10th grader at University High School and plays in its Chamber Orchestra. She is in her 6th year of studying cello with Mary Beth Tyndall. Molly also plays in the Tucson Philharmonia Youth Orchestra where she recently earned Honorable Mention in its Scholarship Competition. When she is not in school or playing music, Molly climbs with the highest level of the Rocks and Ropes Climbing Team. Molly is seriously considering a future career in music, probably with climbing nearby.

On Saturday, April 30, Jisue Choi, First Place Winner in the Senior Piano Division, will perform Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with the Civic Orchestra. Jisue is a high school senior at University High School. Since the age of 5, she has studied piano with her father, Dr. Kyungsun Choi. Jisue has won many local competitions including first place in the Young Artists' Competition in 2020 and 2022, the Gold Medal in the Tucson Philharmonia Youth Orchestra Scholarship Competition in 2020 and 2021, and First Place in the Tucson Music Teacher's Association Merit Scholarship Auditions in 2019. Jisue loves reading books, watching movies, and listening to both classical and pop music. She hopes to double major in Psychology and Music, preparing to be a psychiatrist and professional musician in the future.

Free concerts featuring these talented Young Artists' Competition winners:

Saturday, April 30, 3:00 p.m., Valley Presbyterian Church, 2800 S. Camino Del Sol, Green Valley
Jisue Choi, piano soloist

Sunday, May 1, 7:00 p.m., DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center, Reid Park, 800 S Concert Pl, Tucson
Molly Urbon-Bonine, cello soloist

No tickets required, open seating.
Visit COTmusic.org or call 520-730-3371 for more information.

*The Civic Orchestra of Tucson, a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization,
has been presenting free concerts since 1975.
Donations are appreciated.*

###