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WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 50th ANNUAL JOSEPH AND GOLDIE FEDER MEMORIAL STRING COMPETITION AWARDS

This year's competition was held virtually, welcoming a record 146 participants

(Washington, D.C.) — Washington Performing Arts today announced the winners of 2021's 50th annual Joseph and Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition, which was held entirely online due to the pandemic. This year's competition welcomed a total of 146 participants from across Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia—the highest number in the program's history—from which 33 young musicians were selected as finalists. The results of the final round were shared with the participants on Wednesday, June 16—see below for a full list of winners. In honor of the competition's golden anniversary, Washington Performing Arts commissioned new works for the competition from American composers Jessica Meyer and Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR).

"It is a pleasure to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Feder Memorial String Competition by supporting the next generation of amazing string performers in the region and expanding the string instrument repertoire with commissioned works by accomplished composers like Daniel Bernard Roumain and Jessica Meyer," said Washington Performing Arts Director of Education and Community Engagement Michelle Hoffman. "It's inspiring to hear these young musicians and witness the level of talent and dedication that they bring to mastering their instruments. In this anniversary year, it has been incredible to witness the students' preparation and interpretation of newly commissioned works for their instruments. We look forward to the next 50 years of nurturing young musicians in the lifelong exploration of music. It is our goal that the Feder Competition teach students valuable lessons about themselves and about the role they can play in advancing music in their schools and communities."

The Feder String Competition is offered free-of-charge to violin, viola, cello, and double-bass students in grades K-12 in the D.C. area. Its goal is to help young musicians develop confidence and focus as they compete before a panel of professional judges. The winners receive monetary prizes, awards for private lessons, and tuition support for summer and pre-college music programs. Washington Performing Arts also provides them with opportunities to perform and with an instrument loan program to assist those in need.

Given the ongoing pandemic restrictions, Washington Performing Arts designed the 2021 Feder String Competition in an online format. The preliminary round had a submission deadline of January 22, by which time all participants submitted videos of two contrasting pieces. From this applicant pool, 33 participants were selected as finalists and then competed in a final round, also adjudicated digitally. Each finalist was matched with the original composition by Meyer or Roumain that best aligned with their instrument and competition level, which they then learned and recorded. This adjustment provided participants with the unique opportunity to premiere compositions and to exercise their ability of interpreting a new piece of music.

The composer-in-residence of this year's Spoleto Festival as well as a Grammy-nominated violist, Jessica Meyer has had works premiered by the Grammy-winning vocal ensembles Roomful of Teeth and Vox Clamantis, along with other renowned ensembles such as A Far Cry, American Brass Quintet, and PUBLIQuartet. *Gramophone* magazine has praised her work for "knife-edged anticipation [that] opens on to unexpected, often ecstatic musical realms." Also a respected educator, she has given workshops at The Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute of Music, Manhattan School of Music, and other educational institutions throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Composer, violinist, educator, and activist Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) has been hailed as "about as omnivorous as a contemporary artist gets" (*New York Times*). DBR is perhaps the only composer whose collaborations span Philip Glass, Bill T. Jones, Savion Glover, and Lady Gaga. He most recently scored the film *Ailey* (directed by Jamila Wignot), which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2021. His aria "[They Still Want to Kill Us,](#)" commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, was premiered online last month by Washington Performing Arts and a consortium of nationwide arts presenters. For the Feder competition, DBR named each of his six compositions in honor of a victim of a hate crime or act of violence, including George Floyd and Beonna Taylor, making each piece a musical portrait of that person (see full list of dedicatees below).

2021 FEDER STRING COMPETITION COMMISSIONED WORKS:

Composer Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR)*

- *Breonna Taylor* (Aspiring Violin)
- *Sandra Bland* (Intermediate Violin)
- *George Floyd* (Advanced Violin)
- *Xiao Zhen Xie* (Aspiring Cello)
- *Vilma Kari* (Intermediate Cello)
- *Brayla Stone* (Advanced Cello)

*DBR dedicated and named these works after a victim of a hate crime or act of violence.

Composer Jessica Meyer

- *Farewell Song* (Aspiring Viola)
- *Naughty Kitty* (Intermediate Viola)
- *Tempest* (Advanced Viola)

The 2021 Feder String Competition participants were adjudicated by violinist/violist Olivia Hajioff, violinist/violist Marc Ramirez, and cellist Vasily Popov—all local to the D.C. area.

2021 JOSEPH AND GOLDIE FEDER MEMORIAL STRING COMPETITION WINNERS

Violin

Advanced

1st Place: Ari Han	\$350	VA	Harrisonburg High School
2nd Place: Runa Matsushita	\$250	MD	Towson High School
3rd Place: Andrew Gray	\$150	MD	Landon School
Honorable Mention: Bryan Hsu	\$75	VA	Freedom Hill Elementary School

Intermediate

1st Place: Yixuan Li	\$250	MD	Takoma Park Middle School
2nd Place: Jiles Defosse	\$150	MD	Cape St Claire Elementary School
2nd Place: Katherine Song	\$150	MD	Herbert Hoover Middle School
3rd Place: Michelle Liu	\$100	VA	Longfellow Middle School

Aspiring

1st Place: Raymond Lim	\$175	MD	Robert Frost Middle School
2nd Place: Avery Lee	\$100	VA	Mantua Elementary School
3rd Place: Mina Liu	\$50	VA	Chesterbrook Elementary School

Beginner

1st Place: Wakana Hatta	\$100	VA	Arlington Science Focus Elementary School
2nd Place: James Post	\$75	VA	Beauvoir, The National Cathedral Elementary School
3rd Place: Jemimah Lee	\$25	MD	Spark Matsunaga Elementary School

Viola

Advanced

1st Place: Zoey Ma	\$350	MD	River Hill High School
2nd Place: Anna Lee	\$250	MD	Richard Montgomery High School
3rd Place: Annika Wong	\$150	MD	River Hill High School

Intermediate

1st Place: Emma Zou	\$250	MD	Poolesville High School
2nd Place: Rosemary Sellers	\$150	DC	Duke Ellington School of the Arts
3rd Place: Amelia Hanbury	\$100	DC	National Cathedral School
Honorable Mention: Xavier Lee Llacer	\$50	MD	Glenelg High School

Aspiring

1st Place: James Eibner-Gebhardt	\$175	DC	Janney Elementary School
2nd Place: Katie Hwang	\$100	MD	Robert Frost Middle School
3rd Place: Jane Morrison	\$50	VA	Mosby Woods Elementary School

Cello

Advanced

1st Place: Nicole Fang	\$350	MD	Richard Montgomery High School
2nd Place: Allen Yoo	\$250	MD	Winston Churchill High School
3rd Place: Julian Naimon	\$150	DC	Homeschool
Honorable Mention: Joshua Fan	\$75	MD	Richard Montgomery High School

Intermediate

1st Place: Emmanuel Liu	\$250	MD	Robert Frost Middle School
2nd Place: Mehr Kaur	\$150	MD	Cabin John Middle School
3rd Place: Jason Yoo	\$100	VA	Chantilly High School
Honorable Mention: Jacob Lee	\$50	MD	Roberto Clemente Middle School

Aspiring

1st Place: Jonathan Shin	\$175	VA	Robinson Middle School
2nd Place: Bailey Chon	\$100	VA	Longfellow Middle School
3rd Place: Ayman Bourar	\$50	DC	Creative Minds International Public Charter School
Honorable Mention: Ella Wu	\$25	MD	Travilah Elementary School

Beginner

1st Place: Olivia Kim	\$100	VA	South County Middle School
2nd Place: Jules Amyot	\$75	DC	Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School
3rd Place: Jaydon Na			

Double Bass

1st Place: Anderson Bernal	\$250	MD	Thomas S. Wootton High School
2nd Place: Joshua Thrush	\$150	VA	Luther Jackson Middle School

Washington Performing Arts Scholarship

To be used for an approved summer music camp or towards a private study with an approved teacher during the current calendar year.

Emmanuel Liu	\$1,500		
Jonathan Shin			

Students in each instrumental division compete in categories based on playing ability as reflected by their choice of repertoire. The four performance categories—Advanced, Intermediate, Aspiring, and Beginner—corresponded to specific repertoire levels drawn from the [American String Teachers Association](#) (ASTA) Certificate Advancement Program Handbook.

Each applicant submitted videos consisting of two contrasting selections for consideration by the judges. Applicants were judged on their musicianship, technical ability, interpretation, stage presence, and overall presentation. Former first prize winners of the Advanced Category were ineligible to compete for cash awards. However, if still in grade school, they remained eligible to compete for a scholarship or a tutorial award.

This year's prize divisions included: the Misbin Family Memorial Award, named in honor of the Misbin family to recognize musicality by students who demonstrate sensitivity and understanding through their interpretation of the music; the Goldie B. Feder Award, named in honor of the founder of the Competition to recognize overall achievement and outstanding musicianship; the Women's Committee Award, funded through the generosity of the members of the Washington Performing Arts Women's Committee to be used to further the music instruction of the recipient; the Tutorial Award, granted toward tuition costs for a summer music camp or private study; Friday Morning Music Club Membership, granted to Advanced First Place winners; and Potters Award, gift certificates from the Potter's Violin Company granted to first place winners in each category. Winners in each category were awarded 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, and honorable mention prizes.

ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for more than half a century with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, jazz, international genres, and more. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence on the internet, addressing the programming challenges of this time of pandemic while envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community in a post-COVID world.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, we engage international visiting artists in community programs and introduce local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and education programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with three Mayor's Arts Awards from the DC Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

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