



2021 Young Artist Competition

Congratulations to all flutists who sent in videos for the junior and senior division Young Artist Competition. We had many deserving applicants! Our judges were impressed with the level of devotion from each applicant despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

The GPFS would like to recognize the winners of the Young Artist Competition Senior Division:

- With a cash prize of \$300, first place went to flutist, **Macy Gong**.
- Second place went to flutist, **Elyse Nah**, who received a \$150 gift certificate to Windsmith.
- Our third place winner was, **Diego Fernandez**, receiving a lesson with Zach Galatis.
- The judges would like to honor, **Ania Grodsky** with honorable mention.

The GPFS would like to recognize the winners of the Young Artist Competition Junior Division:

- In first place, flutist **Talia Mesecar**, who will receive a \$200 cash prize.
- Second place went to flutist, **Jamie Chen**, who will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Canter Music.
- Third place went to **Lauren Huber**, who will receive one lesson with Martha Long.

We are very appreciative to our adjudicators who took the time to carefully listen and provide notes for each applicant. Thank you, [Rachel Rencher](#), [Gale Gillespie](#), [Adam Eccleston](#), and [Alicia DiDonato Paulsen](#).

Senior Division



Elyse Nah, sixteen years of age, is a sophomore at Sunset High School. She is a student of Martha Long and has been playing the flute for six years. She was the alternate winner of the 2020 MTNA Oregon Senior Woodwind Competition and was a finalist of the 2020 Froot Fire Virtual Soloist Competition. In addition, she was a gold medal winner in the 2021 Grand Metropolitan International Music Competition. She is also a member of the Portland Youth Philharmonic and was previously the principal flute of the Portland Youth Conservatory Orchestra and the Concert Orchestra of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. Elyse has been playing in orchestras for the past four years and has also been playing the piano for ten years. Other than flute and piano, Elyse also enjoys travelling, writing, and spending time with family and friends.



Flutist Macy Gong, 15, is a freshman at Oregon Episcopal School. She began studying the flute at the age of six and is a student of Dr. Sydney Carlson. Macy has won many awards, including 2nd place in the VSO Young Artists Competition, 3rd place in the NFA Junior Soloist Competition, and she has received a scholarship from the Monday Musical Club. Additionally, she was one of three flutes across the nation selected to participate in NYO2 2020. Currently, she is the principal flute of the Portland Youth Philharmonic. Aside from flute, she is heavily involved with piano as well, earning many awards in competitions and festivals. Outside of music, Macy enjoys reading, playing badminton, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.



Starting flute in sixth grade, through the support of his band director, he quickly moved up through the ensembles. By the start of eighth-grade he began to study with Dr. Abigail Sperling. Beginning to take flute much more seriously, he began to work on standard repertoire. Currently, he plays 2nd flute and piccolo in the Portland Youth Philharmonic and is placing 1st at districts. Hoping to major in music, he continues to work hard with his teacher and prepare for concerts and contests.

Junior Division



Talia Mesecar is thirteen years old and currently studying at Whittaker middle school. Whittaker is also where she and “quite a few others attend band class with our fantastic teacher Jennifer Bell.” Flute has always been something that has driven her curiosity and determination to extend further than anything else I practice. In addition to band, she enjoys her flute lessons taught by Sandy Norman. She also enjoys playing for the Salem Youth symphony. “The arts are always something that sparks energy and happiness in me, I do not know what I would do without them.”



Jamie Chen has been studying flute with Sandy Norman for the past four years. She also enjoys singing and reading books.



Lauren Huber is an eighth-grade flutist from Salem, Oregon. Her music journey started with the piano when she was six and falling in love with the flute in elementary school. Since then, Lauren was first chair in 2020 Salem/Keizer Middle School All City Band, is first chair in Straub Advanced Band and is a member of the Salem Philharmonia Orchestra. Lauren was also a finalist in the MTNA Jr woodwind soloist competition. She has attended masterclasses with Martha Long, Jennifer Rhyne, and Christina Castellanos. She studies with Sandy Duffy Norman.