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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The Ottawa Chamber Orchestra announces the winners in their annual Concerto Competition.**

The Ottawa Chamber Orchestra is pleased to announce the winners in their 2012 Concerto Competition, this year featuring promising young pianists.

With the invaluable support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the competition was started in 2002 with the aim to discover, reward and support young singers, wind, brass or string players, and pianists under the age of 25, and to provide them with the opportunity to gain orchestral experience. It has been held annually since that time (except in 2010). More than 60 young artists have auditioned for these events, and more than 30 have been given the opportunity to perform a classical work of their choosing with the orchestra, and to have their playing evaluated by a panel of professional judges.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, five finalists performed concerto movements with the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra for the judges of this year's competition, featuring many audience favourites. The concert was held at Tabaret Hall, University of Ottawa, under the baton of Maestro David Thies-Thompson.

The third, and final panel of judges included Cynthia Tormann, Frederic Lacroix and Carson Becke, all prominent pianists and with considerable experience in competitions. The jury felt that the performances of all five finalists were at a very high level. They were astounded that the level of maturity in the playing was being delivered by such a youthful group of candidates, and were moved by the quality and sensitivity of the performances. They felt it was encouraging to see that there is a next generation of young players in our area who will bring a high level of performance craft to our concert halls.

After two rounds of competition, here are the finalists:

First Place: **Phillip Cho** – student of Zhanna Gumenyuk

Second Place : **Anita Pari** – student of Andrew Tunis

Third Place: **Stanley Li** – student of Galina Shostakovsky

Prizes were awarded to the top three finalists in the amount of \$1,000.00, \$500.00 and \$300.00 with the support of TELUS. In addition, the winner is invited to perform in a concert at the Festival Pontiac Enchante ([www.venturinghills.ca](http://www.venturinghills.ca)) during 2012 summer festival. As well, the winner will be invited to participate in a masterclass at this year's festival given by the German pianist Hinrich Alpers ([www.hinrichalpers.com](http://www.hinrichalpers.com)).

The Ottawa Chamber Orchestra is looking forward to the next Concerto Competition, in June 2013, which will be for Wind instruments.

For more information, please contact OCO President Gabriella Csoti ([gcsoti@magma.ca](mailto:gcsoti@magma.ca)) or competition coordinator Bob Mallard ([bostomal@rogers.com](mailto:bostomal@rogers.com)) or visit [www.ottawachamberorchestra.com](http://www.ottawachamberorchestra.com) .

## Phillip Cho



Sixteen year old pianist Phillip Cho is a student pursuing the International Baccalaureate Diploma at Colonel By Secondary School. He is currently studying piano with Zhanna Gumenyuk. He began studying piano at the age of seven with Mrs. Cheryl Ranacher.

Phillip has won both the ORMTA Region Zone Competition and ORMTA Provincial Competition in Ottawa. In 2010, he completed his RCM Grade 10 Piano Examinations, winning the ORMTA scholarship with the highest mark in the Ottawa region. An active participant for many years in the Kiwanis Music Festival, Phillip has earned several scholarships and trophies, including the Violet Patten Memorial Trophy in 2011, and was also a prize winner at the 2010 Canadian Music Competition National Finals.

Phillip has been performing at various venues in Ottawa including several embassies and Tabaret Hall of the University of Ottawa as part of the Canadian Music Competition fundraising concerts. In 2011, Phillip was televised nationally on CBC News for his performance during the launch of the new website from the National Arts Centre, Timeline. He also performed in the Rising Stars concert during the 75<sup>th</sup> Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival. In addition to solo piano, Phillip enjoys participating in chamber music ensembles.

## Anita Pari



Fourteen-year-old Anita Pari has charmed audiences with her beautiful interpretations of the piano repertoire. Anita began playing piano at the age of three, composing music at four and playing cello at seven. She is in her fifth year of studies with pianist Andrew Tunis of the School of Music of the University of Ottawa and her sixth year with cellist Anne Contant of the Conservatoire de musique de Gatineau. Among the noteworthy accolades Anita has received are first and second places in piano and strings, respectively, in the ten-year-old age group of the 2009 Canadian Music Competition, third place at the 2011 Virginia Waring International Piano Competition, and first place in both the provincial (2009) and Young Artist (2011) ORMTA provincial competition. This last win led to a concert tour in which Anita was able to share her love of piano music with audiences in Sarnia, Waterloo, North Bay, Burlington, Sault Ste. Marie and Ottawa. In 2010, Anita completed the Performers' Diploma of the Royal Conservatory of Music (piano) with distinction, receiving a gold medal for maintaining the highest average mark in music theory exams among graduating students across Canada. Her piano compositions have been awarded first and second prizes in Canadian national competitions and her Nocturne for Strings, composed in 2010, was performed at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival by the Cecilia String Quartet. Anita plans to begin, in the fall of 2012, a Bachelor of Music degree with pianist Santiago Rodriguez, at the Frost School of Music of the University of Miami.

## Stanley Li



Stanley Li was born in Ottawa, Ontario and began studying piano at the age of four. Fifteen years old, he is currently studying with Galina Shostakovsky for his Performer's ARCT of the Royal Conservatory of Music. Annually competing in the Kiwanis Music Festival, he has won awards such as the Irene Woodburn Wright Trophy and the Adele Starcher Memorial Scholarship. He was a provincial finalist in the Canadian Music Competition in 2008 and in 2010. Stanley frequently participates in the Kanata Music Club. He enjoys experimenting on the piano and guitar, as well as playing hockey and soccer throughout the year.