



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Midwest Young Artists Conservatory Welcomes Student Kay Ito to the Stage as the 26th Annual Walgreens National Concerto Competition Winner!

Senior graduating student, Kay Ito, wins the 2023 Walgreens National Concerto Competition within the MYAC Senior Division, performing the second and third movements of Bartok's Viola Concerto!



Eighteen-year-old violist, **Kay Ito**, is a current senior at New Trier High School. She started on violin at the age of five with Aki Tanaka and continued with Stacia Spencer at the Northwestern Music Academy. Shortly after she was introduced to viola at the age of fourteen, she decided to permanently switch instruments and now plans to pursue viola performance after high school. Kay has been a member of the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory's (MYAC) Symphony Orchestra as well as their chamber music program since 2021, serving as the principal violist for the past three years. Additionally, she continues to play violin as concertmistress in New Trier High School's Symphony Orchestra. Kay has also had the opportunity to perform as principal violist for the Illinois All-State Honors Orchestra in 2022 and 2023. Besides her leadership roles within orchestras, Kay also actively works towards strengthening her small chamber ensemble skills. Her quartet last year, formed at MYAC, has participated in national chamber music competitions such as the St. Paul String Quartet Competition and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Kay's musical diligence continued through the summer months of 2023 as she enrolled in the Meadowmount School of Music Summer Program. While there, she had the opportunity to perform alongside fellow dedicated musicians as well as learn from prestigious teachers such as Su Zhen and Ayane Kozasa. Currently, she studies with Rose Armbrust Griffin.

One of Kay's latest career milestones includes winning the MYAC Senior Division of the 2023 Walgreens National Concerto Competition. In addition to claiming the title as the Overall MYAC Senior Winner, she also was named the String Category Winner within her division. This year was the 26th annual year of the competition with over 200 contestants from all over the U.S., making it the largest and most comprehensive of its kind throughout the midwest. MYAC provided two panels of distinguished judges who delivered personalized comments to each performance as well as individual professional recordings for each student and a nurturing and encouraging environment in which to participate in.

Kay Ito will be performing the second and third movements of the Bartok Viola Concerto with the Midwest Young Artists' Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 at Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. This concert will also feature winners from the MYAC Junior Division and Overall Open Divisions, performing their solo pieces with the accompaniment of MYAC's orchestral ensembles!

Don't forget to secure your tickets for Kay's performance at <https://givebutter.com/myacwinterconcerts>, or call (847) 926-9898.