

Gifted young musicians to perform concert at Cantigny

Midwest Young Artists Conservatory submission

Nine students from around the world selected by internationally acclaimed piano sensation Lang Lang will perform this month at Cantigny Park with the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory's Symphony Orchestra.

Featuring works by Chopin, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Berlioz and more, the outdoor concert will showcase the musical mastery of the young musicians. Pianists as young as 12 will perform.

The students will perform at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at Cantigny, 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton. They'll also take the stage at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19, at Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Chicago's Millennium Park. Both concerts are free.

For the last seven years, the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory has shared this partnership with the Lang Lang International Music Foundation. The International Summer Music Summit is a chance for a small group of gifted pianists younger than 16, chosen by Lang Lang, to gather in a weeklong celebration of collaborative music



COURTESY OF MIDWEST YOUNG ARTISTS CONSERVATORY
Nine music students taking part in an International Summer Music Summit in Chicago will perform with the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory's Symphony Orchestra this month at Cantigny Park.

with MYAC's Symphony Orchestra members.

During the summer music program, the students of MYAC and the Lang Lang Young Scholars stay with host families, take part in chamber performances, go sightseeing, and take in concerts at venues

around Chicago.

Collaborations have included chamber concerts at Chicago Botanic Garden and concerto performances with MYAC's Symphony Orchestra at Millennium Park for audiences of thousands. New this year, the International Summer Music

received the Golden Baton Award from us in 2010 (given to an arts leader who symbolizes the importance of music and the arts in educating young people) and I said, 'Let's do something together,' and he enthusiastically responded, 'That sounds like a good idea!'"

The free concerts of the International Summer Music Summit also provide an eye-opening experience for members of the Chicago community not ordinarily exposed to live classical music.

"You'd be amazed at the number of times people just come up to me and say, 'I was just walking by and I couldn't go, I couldn't leave,'" Dennis said about the free Millennium Park concert.

MYAC Symphony Orchestra member and pianist Kimie Han of Lake Forest just completed her Lang Lang Young Scholar graduation recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City as a 2016-18 Lang Lang Young Scholar. Han is a two-year (2016-18) Chopin Foundation of USA full scholarship recipient, and a 2017 and 2018 National YoungArts winner. She will perform in a piano trio with the Scharoun Ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic

while on tour in Poland in August.

Han says being part of MYAC provided her with the foundation to achieve her personal and musical goals. She plans to apply to universities this fall to obtain a double degree in piano performance and either biology or neuroscience.

"MYAC has been my home away from home throughout the years. I have spent countless amounts of hours in orchestra rehearsals, chamber rehearsals, performances and more," Han said. "Under the guidance of Dr. D, I have learned the true meaning of hard work, dedication and leadership. And throughout my time at MYAC, I have met some of the most amazing people — people who have become my closest friends. Without MYAC, I wouldn't be the musician or person that I am today."

MYAC's classical, jazz and choral programs serve students ranging from grade school beginners through advanced pre-collegiate performers. Families interested in participating for the 2018-19 season can visit mya.org for placement audition information.

For information, visit mya.org or call (847) 926-9898.