

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Midwest Young Artists
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Kids Go Head-to-Head for Big City Dreams

FORT SHERIDAN, IL November 6, 2004— Every year extraordinary music students travel from afar to compete in the largest and most prestigious concerto competition in the US. In its 11th year, the Walgreens National Concerto Competition, hosted by **Midwest Young Artists** (MYA 878 Lyster Road, Highwood IL 60040 847-926-9898), will draw more than 200 of the most talented young musicians from across the country for this two day event on **January 2 & January 9, 2005**. Judging the competition are nationally known musicians and educators from top conservatories around the country. “Last year I was amazed with the level of talent and dedication that these kids have. Students from Florida to Minnesota travel to the MYA Center to compete in this prestigious competition. I’m hoping that this year’s competition will prove to be even more successful” says Dr. Allan Dennis, Director of Midwest Young Artists.

Open to all instruments, including voice, the Walgreens National Concerto Competition is divided into two levels; the Junior and Senior Level. The Junior Level is open to 8th grade or younger musicians, while the Senior Level is for 9th – 12th grade students. In addition, the competition is split into two divisions; the MYA Division (January 2) and the Open Division (January 9). The MYA Division is open to students who participate in the MYA Orchestra Program. All other entries participate in the Open Division. This year, MYA, in collaboration with Ars Antigua, is excited to introduce an Early Music Category. The overall winner from the Early Music Category will have the opportunity to perform on a concert during the 2005 Bach Week Festival in Evanston, IL. There are over \$7500 worth of prizes and overall winners perform with the Midwest Young Artists Concert and Symphony Orchestras on the February 26, 2005 Winter Concerts at the newly renovated Genesee Theatre in Waukegan.

“These kids are inspiring. If you close your eyes, you think a professional is playing or singing,” states **Jeffrey Rein, President of Walgreens Corporation**. “This year’s Walgreens National Concerto Competition promises to be full of great music, tough competition, and a wonderful experience for talented young musicians!” To check out the next generation of outstanding musicians, please visit www.mya.org for ticket information.

Midwest Young Artists (878 Lyster Road, Highwood, IL, 847-926-9898), is the leading youth-music ensemble program in the Midwest. Founded in 1993 by Dr. Allan Dennis with one orchestra, MYA has grown into a full-curriculum music school. Presently, MYA has five youth orchestras, more than 50 chamber music ensembles, three vocal ensembles, an all-inclusive jazz program, as well as classes in music theory and history. The program is for serious young musicians and dedicated amateurs. MYA is housed in its own state-of-the-art facility in the town of Fort Sheridan, which provides its students with large rehearsal halls, classrooms, a recording studio, and music library. MYA graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories in the country.

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