



2022 GPFS Young Artist Competition Winners

- GPFS would like to thank everyone who helped with the Young Artist Competition.
- A special thanks to our amazing adjudicators, Phyllis Louke, Dr. Sydney Carlson, Alicia DiDonato Paulsen, and Dr. Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington. As competition judges they took time to give detailed comments to every entering participant.
- We extend another thank you to Dr. Sydney Carlson and Amelia Lukas for their time in providing a lesson for the 2nd place winners.
- We congratulate each of the 13 participants for their hard work and wonderful videos. The adjudicators were so pleased!
- Thank you to Alicia Rasmussen and Hear No Evil for their donation to the 2022 Young Artist Competition. Such donations help GPFS support the costs associated with such events such as prize awards and paying pianist collaborators.
- The GPFS Young Artist Competition occurs annually with the release of the application in early February. Watch for communication about next year's competition.
- Lastly, a big congratulations to our winners! Learn a little bit about them below.

“Music enhances the education of our youth by helping them to make connections and broadening the depth with which they think and feel. If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children’s education.”

Yo-Yo Ma

Junior Division Winners



FIRST PLACE: Talia Mesecar started playing flute in the 5th grade, as well as taking lessons with Sandy Norman. She is in the 8th grade at Whiteaker Middle School where she participates in her school band. For two years Talia has a part of the Salem Youth Philharmonia. In 2021, Talia won the Young Artist Competition and was the MTNA Northwest Junior Division winner in the woodwind category. In January of this year, she was selected to be in the Allstate Middle school ensemble. Besides her love for music Talia enjoys being outside and drawing.



SECOND PLACE: Jamie Chen is an eighth grader at Leslie Middle School. She has been playing flute with her teacher, Sandy Norman, for 5 years. Besides playing flute, she enjoys playing violin, piano, singing, and spending time with her friends and family. She has participated in the Oregon MTNA Junior Competition and twice in the GPFS Young Artist Competition. Flute is a very important part of her life, and she looks forward to learning and playing more in the future.

Senior Division Winners



FIRST PLACE

Victor Ceja is a junior at McNary High School in Keizer, Oregon, where he plays with the wind ensemble, symphony, and the marching band. He is principal flute with Salem Youth Symphony and was selected for the 2022 OMEA All-State Orchestra; he was previously principal flute of the OMEA All-State Wind Symphony and was named alternate in the 2021 MTNA state woodwind soloist competition. Victor is a member of the GPFS and studies with Sandy Duffy Norman. He continues to seek challenges and opportunities to play and hopes to continue flute beyond high school.



SECOND PLACE

Diego Fernandez is a young flutist in Salem, Oregon currently attending South Salem High School as a Junior. Starting flute in the 6th grade, his first teacher was his band director at Stephens Middle school in 2016 and later the director at Leslie Middle School in 2017. In 8th grade, he began to study with Dr. Abigail Sperling from Linfield College in 2018. Diego won 2nd place in the 2018 Greater Portland Flute Society, 1st chair in the 2018 Salem/Keizer's All-City Honor Band, District Winner in the 2021 Solo and Ensemble festival, was a featured soloist with the Central Oregon Symphony, and won 2nd place in the GPFS Young Artist Competition 2022. Diego is also a 2022 Young Artist Ambassador at All Classical Portland. In 2021, he began to study with Martha Long from the Oregon Symphony as he prepares for college auditions in the Fall of 2022. Currently he serves as the 2nd flute and piccolo of the Portland Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and principal flute in both the South Salem Wind Ensemble and South Salem Symphony. He gives regular performances at senior homes and retirement centers whenever he can. Along with the flute, Diego also enjoys reading about wolves and working part time at TJ-Maxx.

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