

Summer/ Fall 2023



# Cal ASTA Sacramento Section Newsletter

**Congratulations** to all the participants who competed at the annual CalASTA Sacramento Section solo competition held on Sunday, June 4, 2023, at the UC Davis Music Department. Awards went to the following students:

## Violin

Nathaniel Huang-novice division, student of Peiyun Lee

Diana Yanovskiy-junior division, student of Anita Felix

Cello

Anya Zhang-novice division, student of Julie Hochman

Vivian Zhu-junior division, student of Julie Hochman

Winner's Bios:

***Nathaniel Huang** is 9 years old and will be starting 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. He started playing his first notes at three years old while in preschool in Boston, MA and continued this interest after moving to Sacramento, CA. He loves to play the violin. Nathaniel also enjoys reading adventure books, kung fu, video games, and playing with his sister Aggie, who also plays the violin. This was the first music competition Nathaniel attended so he was nervous at first but had a good time. Nathaniel would like to thank his violin teacher, Ms. Peiyun Lee, for her guidance, and his family for their encouragement and support.*



***Diana Yanovski** was born in Sacramento, California, and is now a Junior at Clarksville Charter School. She began taking violin lessons at the age of five but developed a passion for music at the age of eleven. She is currently studying violin with Folsom Lake Symphony's concertmaster, Anita Felix, and attends Sacramento Youth Symphony's Premier Orchestra. In 2022, Diana won the Sacramento Youth Symphony's Academic String Orchestra Concerto Competition. From fourth grade through Sophomore year of high school, Diana attended the Northern California Children's Chorus. Currently, she is taking vocal lessons with Dr. Robin Fisher. In 2023, she won first place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition, age group 14-16. In the same year, she won first place in the Sacramento Master Singers Scholarship, age group 14-16. In addition, she began taking conducting lessons with Angelo Moreno, conductor of the Academic String Orchestra, and had the honor of being a guest conductor for their 2023 Spring Concert. Her hobbies include playing the piano, reading, and trying new food.*

**Anya Zhang**, 11, is a student at Patwin Elementary school. She began learning cello at age six with Dan Barker and currently studies with Julie Hochman. Anya is also member of her school orchestra. She enjoys playing chamber music and has participated in the Davis Young Artists Chamber Orchestra summer workshop since 2022. Aside from cello, Anya loves singing in the Davis Youth choir, drawing, and painting.

**Vivian Zhu**, age 17, is a junior at Vista Del Lago High School in Folsom, CA. She has been studying cello under the instruction of Mrs. Julie Hochman for five years and started with Mr. Jia-mo Chen from age 7. She has taken several cello master classes from Amit Peled, Andy Luchansky, Rachel Young, Laura Sewell, Bion Tsang and Hannah Holman. She won first place in California Association of Music Professional Teacher Concerto competition(North)(2022), 1st place in Mountains Young Musicians Competition (2022), Paul Perry Award from Music in the Mountains, and 2nd place (strings) in ENKOR International Music competition (2020/2021). She was accepted to the National Symphony Orchestra SMI in 2021, International Cello Institute and Amit Peled's Cello Academy in 2020. She has played with Sacramento Youth Symphony's Premier Orchestra and Folsom Lake College Chamber Orchestra for six years. Besides cello, Vivian enjoys STEM research, programming and performing ballet and contemporary dance at Hawkins School of Performing Arts.



Aaron Niu from the junior cello division was recommended for advancement to the CalASTA State Solo Competition, which will be held in Southern California in October 2024.

*All winners received cash prizes. Winner certificates will be given out at the annual Showcase Fall recital on November 19, 2023.*

*Our judges were Sandra Chong and Priscilla Hopkins. Their photos and bios can be found on the Sacramento Section page at [www.calasta.org](http://www.calasta.org)*

## **2023 Fall Showcase Recital**

This year's recital will take place on Sunday, 1:00 pm and if needed 2:30pm, November 19th at the Eskaton Land Park, 3225 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95818. If necessary, we will divide the recital into two sections. The recital coordinator will contact you for the schedule after all the applications are received. Please observe that there is a postmark deadline on the application. Students of all ages and levels are welcome to participate. Please click on this link for the application form:



[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSYeSXEY5prEdm8t79vKnKSl dLYR5gQWb0Y5k5yru1gjcDjA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSYeSXEY5prEdm8t79vKnKSl dLYR5gQWb0Y5k5yru1gjcDjA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## **ASTA Note Exchange**

In June, Sacramento Section teachers met for what is hoped to be an annual tradition called the Note Exchange. Topics of conversations included teaching bowed techniques on vibrato and spiccato, good venues for recitals, and our hopes for the upcoming academic year. It was a lovely way to connect with each other.

***Have a great Fall, Sacramento Section!***