



LINCOLN'S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

EDWARD POLOCHICK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra Announces 2016-2017 Young Artist Winner: Kevin Cheng

(LINCOLN, Neb. – November 2, 2016) Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce the selection of pianist Kevin Cheng as the LSO Young Artist Winner for the 2016-17 season.

Kevin, originally from Taiwan, attended Nebraska Christian High School in Central City, NE and currently studies at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He will perform the first movement of Moszkowski's *Piano Concerto in E Major, Opus 59*, with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

"We are thrilled to work with Kevin this season, and to feature him as a soloist at both our holiday concerts in December," said Edward Polochick, Music Director of Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. "It was such a pleasure to hear such a fine group of young musicians audition at the Young Artist Competition this year. It is a tribute to the educators in our community that the level of talent was so high."

As winner of the LSO Young Artist Competition, Kevin receives the title of LSO Young Artist Winner for the 2016-17 season, publicity exposure, a private rehearsal and coaching from LSO Resident Conductor, Dr. Tyler White, solo performances at LSO's performances on December 4, 2016, and a \$500 cash prize.

Thirteen high school and college music students participated in LSO's Young Artist Competition this year, which is funded in part by the J. Edmund & Thelma D. Miller Fund at the Lincoln Community Foundation and the Criss Family Foundation. The competition required that applicants be 20 years old or younger and perform a movement of a concerto on their instrument in a formal audition. Past Young Artist Competition winners include Isabella Amador, violinist from Omaha; Lukas McIlhane, flutist from Wahoo; Jennifer Ahn, violinist from Westside High School; Nicholas May, saxophonist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Yasmeen Bora, violinist from Millard North; Joseph Mumm, trombonist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Meredith Ramsey, violinist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Katherine White, oboist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Jaime Tyser, trumpeter from the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and Erik Higgins, bassist from Lincoln Northeast High School.

Young musicians interested in entering next year's Young Artist Competition may apply beginning in July 2017. More information may be found at www.lincolnsymphony.org/auditions.

Founded in 1927, Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra has a mission to enrich, educate and entertain current and potential audiences through the performance and advancement of symphonic music. For more information about Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, call 402.476.2211 or visit www.lincolnsymphony.org.

Young Artist Winner Biography on next page

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About Kevin Cheng

Kevin Cheng was born in Taiwan and began to study piano at the age of 5. He studied with Dr. Chin-Hua Xu during grade school, holding his first piano recital in 2010. Kevin then moved to the United States in 2011, attending Nebraska Christian High School and studying under Dr. Jonathan Sokasits at Hastings College. As a junior in high school, he performed the first and final movements of Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 1* with Hastings Symphony Orchestra. The next year, Cheng won the Kearney Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition, performing Tchaikovsky's second piano concerto with the symphony the next year.

Kevin now studies at the University of Nebraska at Kearney with Dr. Nathan Buckner. During his first year of study, he presented a piano recital in Central City, Nebraska, performing Mendelssohn's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, Rachmoninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, and Brahms's *Paganini Variations*.

Most recently in spring of 2016, Cheng fundraised over \$7,000 and organized the Central City Spring Concert, presenting Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 3*, the Liszt-Schubert *Wanderer Fantasy*, Tchaikovsky's *Concert Fantasia*, and Liszt's *Totentanz*. Two of these pieces were accompanied by the Kearney High School Select Camerata Orchestra. Cheng was interviewed by NTV for this event and performed part of Tchaikovsky's Concert Fantasy and his third piano concerto during their live show in May 2016.

Cheng dreams of bringing high school string orchestras to perform piano concerti in one small Nebraska town a year, in order to expose the great state of Nebraska to the beauty and diversity of piano solo repertoire.

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