

# STULBERG Times

## From Australia to Battle Creek Stulberg 2017 Semifinalists Bring the World to Kalamazoo

Following a 42-year tradition, 12 young string musicians have been selected to participate in the Stulberg International String Competition. They were chosen from a field of 170 applicants — an all-time record. This year offers a special treat — a double bass artist. The most recent double bass contestant was 2009's Nicholas Schwartz, who won the Gold Medal.



Daniel Hass, 2016 Gold Medalist

## The 2017 Stulberg International String Competition Semifinalists

**Zachary Brandon (18)**  
Violin, Battle Creek, MI

Teachers: Almita Vamos, Hye-sun Lee,  
Music Institute of Chicago Academy

**Qing Yu Chen (16)**

Violin, Oakland Gardens, NY

Teachers: Masao Kawasaki, Cho-Liang Lin,  
The Juilliard School

**Karisa Chiu (17)**

Violin, Palatine, IL

Teacher: Almita Vamos,  
Music Institute of Chicago Academy

**Isabelle Durrenberger (18)**

Violin, Cleveland, OH

Teachers: Jaime Laredo, Jinjoo Cho,  
Cleveland Institute of Music

**Mei Hotta (14)**

Cello, Torrance, CA

Teacher: Sarah Koo, Koo Cello Studio

**Alena Hove (17)**

Violin, Issaquah, WA

Teacher: Simon James, Coleman Violin Studio

**Joseph Hsia (16)**

Violin, West Windsor, NJ

Teacher: Sheryl Staples,  
The Juilliard School

**Nathan Le (17)**

Cello, Northridge, CA

Teacher: Ronald Leonard,  
Colburn Music Academy

**Alice Lee (16)**

Violin, Markham, ON

Teacher: Barry Shiffman,  
The Royal Conservatory of Music

**William McGregor (17)**

Double Bass, Malvern, PA

Teacher: Albert Laszlo, The Juilliard School

**Rachel Siu (19)**

Cello, New York, NY

Teacher: Joel Krosnick, The Juilliard School

**Jeremy Tai (18)**

Cello, Cupertino, CA

Teacher: Hans Jensen,  
Northwestern University

## Stulberg Competition Saturday, May 13

All Events at  
Dalton Center Recital Hall  
Western Michigan University

Semifinalist  
Performances  
9 am to 4 pm

Free and open to public

Finals Concert  
7:30 pm

Admission:  
Adults \$20, Students \$5

Ticket information at [stulberg.org](http://stulberg.org)

## Master Classes Sunday, May 14 12:30 pm

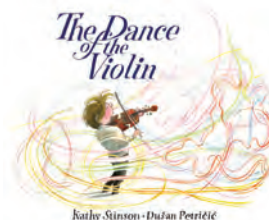
Free and open to the public

### Judges and Clinicians:

David Kim, violin  
Yizhak Schotten, viola  
Amit Peled, cello

**Book Features Stulberg** "One day Joshua rushed home from his music lesson. 'Mom! Dad! I have to go to Kalamazoo!'"

And that begins a marvelous adventure for young Joshua Bell, in the new children's



picture book "The Dance of the Violin," which chronicles Grammy Award-winning Bell's semifinalist experience at The Stulberg International String Competition. **See Page 3 for more.**



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### Our Mission

The Stulberg International String Competition has been helping young artists achieve their dreams since 1975. Our mission is to promote excellence in string instrument performance by gifted young artists under the age of 20.

## Judges Bring Expertise to Competition



Violinist **David Kim** was named Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1999. He started playing the violin at the age of three, began studies with the famed pedagogue Dorothy DeLay at the age of eight, and later received his bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School. Highlights of Mr. Kim's 2015-16 season include teaching/performance residencies at Oberlin College, Bob Jones University, and The Boston Conservatory of Music; continued appearances as concertmaster of the All-Star Orchestra on PBS station; and the launching of the David Kim Orchestral Institute of Cairn University in Philadelphia where he is also a professor of violin studies. [davidkimviolin.com](http://davidkimviolin.com)



Israeli-born violinist **Yizhak Schotten** was discovered and brought to the United States by the renowned violinist William Primrose, with whom he studied at Indiana University and the University of Southern California. His solo appearances with orchestras in this country and abroad have included performances with conductors Seiji Ozawa, Thomas Schippers, Joseph Swensen, and Arthur Fiedler. He has concertized around the world. As a member of the Trio d'Accordo, Mr. Schotten won the Concert Artists Guild International Competition in New York. Mr. Schotten teaches at the University of Michigan. [yizhakschotten.com](http://yizhakschotten.com)



Israeli cellist **Amit Peled** is acclaimed as one of the most exciting instrumentalists on the concert stage today. At 6'5" tall, Peled started life as a basketball player and was called "larger than life" and "Jacqueline du Pré in a farmer's body." Peled often surprises audiences with the ways he breaks down barriers between performers and the public. During the 2016/17 season, Mr. Peled continues sharing with worldwide audiences the sound of the historic cello of Pablo Casals, a Goffriler ca. 1733. Upcoming highlights for Mr. Peled include a Bach Suite program at the Ravinia Festival, a new Naxos installment with the Tempest Trio, and a performance with the Jerusalem Symphony. He is a professor at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University. [amitpeled.com](http://amitpeled.com)



Carrie Powell, cello

### Master Class Students Take Center Stage

Several 2016 master class students performed for crowds at the March 2017 Art Hop in the Epic Center in Kalamazoo. Be sure to check out this year's master class on Sunday, May 14, at Western Michigan

University's Dalton Center. Some of the most talented young musicians in the region will work with this year's competition judges beginning at 12:30 p.m.



Sava Velkoff, violin

## Stulberg, Joshua Bell Focus of New Children's Book

Violinist Joshua Bell's childhood and his appearance at the Stulberg International String Competition get a fanciful treatment in the new children's picture book "The Dance of the Violin," by author Kathy Stinson and illustrator Dusan Petricic.

The book, from Annick Press, focuses on 12-year-old Bell's first appearance at the Stulberg at which he chooses to play Edouard Lalo's challenging *Symphonie Espagnole*. Even though his teacher suggests the work may be too difficult, the young violinist insists because of his love of the piece.

In Kalamazoo, however, the jitters take over. He strides on to stage and begins to

play, but he almost immediately makes a mistake. As he starts to walk off stage, he summons the courage to ask to try again. His triumphant playing wins him third place. Bell returned the following year and won the gold medal at the Stulberg.

The Kirkus Review gave the book a rave review, writing, "It's apparent that the violin is the perfect instrument for the small white boy, as his first tentative attempts at familiar tunes turn into a joyful immersion in the music. Colorful mixed-media illustrations dance and swirl across the pages as Joshua envisions stories emanating from the music he plays. ... Petricic's light touch, fluid lines, and watercolors are reminiscent of

Quentin Blake's work, and they bring to life the exuberance with which Joshua approaches his art. Expansive double-page spreads, plenty of white space, and unusual perspectives give just the right amount of room for Stinson's descriptive text. ..."

"A joyful reminder that perseverance pays off, especially when you let out the artist within."

The book is on sale at Bookbug, 3019 Oakland Drive, and will be on sale in the lobby at the competition.



## Where Are They Now?

Cellist **Wendy Warner** (1990 Gold), a protégé of Mstislav Rostropovich, released her latest recording entitled *Eclipse* on Cedille Records this fall, featuring the chamber music of composer Mischa Zupko, who wrote three of the pieces specifically for Warner, and violinist Sang Mee Lee who is also on the album with Zupko and Warner.

Violinist **Mayumi Kanagawa** (2011 Silver) won first prize in the 2016 Princess Astrid Competition in Norway. In addition to her cash prize, Mayumi receives several European debuts, including a solo engagement with the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra. This year's competition focused on performers under the age of 30. Violinist Zachary Brandon (2016 Bach) advanced to the second round in this event.

Cellist **Oliver Herbert** (2015 Silver) and Violist **Erika Gray** (2015 Finalist) were featured soloists in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's performance of Richard Strauss' *Don Quixote* in February 2017.

Cellist **Zlatomir Fung** (2015 Gold) was recently featured as Young Artist of the Week by the Violin Channel which

## A Bass' Lament and Vindication

By Stulberg Competition Board Member Art Feinberg, a devoted, not-that-evolved bull fiddler

What do they call us? Bull fiddle. Doghouse. Basso Buffo. Are we the Rodney Dangerfields of the orchestra? Indeed, we are challenging. We are big and difficult to play in tune and to stay there. How do we manage fast passages and intervals? The bow and strings seem so big and clumsy. Crossing strings or target practice? Players, pick your poison.

But wait! We are not as confused or silly as they would have us. Although it seems unclear what they are playing on or how they play us, we and our users are evolving and surviving because we are the foundation of the

orchestra and indispensable. We epitomize evolution. Darwin must be smiling upon us.

Great bassists are rare. Names like Dragonetti, Bottesini, Simandl, Hrabe, Koussevitzky, Karr and Meyer come only a few per century.

At the Stulberg, we see many embryonic stars. Watch and listen carefully at this year's Stulberg International String Competition, where a young bassist will compete – for the first time since 2009. This is another great chance to witness ontogeny recapitulating phylogeny. You'll be very glad you came.

said he, "... is quickly building an international reputation as an emerging young concert artist of outstanding potential – praised for his virtuosity, maturity and profound musicality."

Violinist **Karina Canellakis** (2001 Bronze) is in her second season as assistant conductor of the Dallas Symphony. She recently won the 2016 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award. The Solti Foundation said she is

"Internationally praised for both her technical and lyrical command of the music." A foundation spokesperson said, "It is especially exciting to witness her continuing development in both orchestral and operatic fields." This season she is making her European debuts with the Swedish Radio Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

# SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, July 27 • Gull Lake Country Club

The Stulberg 2017 Midsummer Night's Interlude will combine a lovely setting on Gull Lake, delicious food, and beautiful music for what is sure to be one of the highlights of the summer season. Please save a spot on your social calendar for the Stulberg's annual summer fundraiser and be sure to ask your friends to join you on this wonderful evening. More details will be posted on the competition website at [stulberg.org](http://stulberg.org)



*Violinist Elisa Barston, the 1986 Stulberg Gold Medalist and the principal second violin with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, was the guest artist at the 2016 Stulberg Midsummer Night's Interlude. At the event, she showed off her prize from the 1986 competition while pianist Susan Wiersma Uchimura looked on.*

The Stulberg is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Competition's primary source of funding comes from individual donors. Additional support is provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts Fund of Kalamazoo County through the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, the Burdick-Thorne Foundation, the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation, the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation, the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, and the Arcturus, Fetzer and Pinehurst Funds of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. Competition sponsors include the William Blair and Company Foundation, The Northern Trust Company, The Wiser Financial Group, Bronson Healthcare, Honigman, The Ray Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Zhang Financial and Discover Kalamazoo. Support also comes from the matching gift programs of IBM and Pfizer. Thank you for your support.

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