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Florida Orchestra Musicians Association announces Young Artist Competition winners



ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra Musicians Association announces the winners of the annual Justine LeBaron Young Artist Competition. This year there are two grand prize winners: Luke Fox, 17, of Seminole on trumpet, and Miranda Isbitts, 12, of Clearwater on violin.

The competition is named in remembrance of the former principal horn of The Florida Orchestra, Justine LeBaron. This year 38 classical music students from Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco counties competed in the senior and junior divisions in piano and instrumental categories. Ages ranged from 10 to 22 years old. Cash prizes totaling about \$4,500 will be distributed among 12 winners.

The competition was held March 17 at the Music Center on the Gibbs Campus of St. Petersburg College. John Wilson, former news anchor of Fox 13 television, assisted with the awards ceremony.

The winners in each category are:

Grand Prize

Luke Fox, 17, trumpet, Seminole, Hummel *Trumpet Concerto*, 1st movement
Miranda Isbitts, 12, violin, Clearwater, Bruch *Violin Concerto*, 1st movement

Senior Piano

First: Veronica Martinez-Brockhus, 22, Tampa, Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 3*, 1st movement
Second: Marco Jimenez, 15, St. Petersburg, Prokofiev *Piano Concerto No. 2*, 1st movement
Third: Vincent Pham, 10, Tampa, Mozart *Piano Concerto No. 13*, 3rd movement
Honorable Mention: Hannah Hoover, 17, Tampa

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Senior Instrumental

First: Luke Fox, 17, trumpet, Seminole, Hummel *Trumpet Concerto*, 1st movement

Second: William Ramos, 16, bassoon, Palm Harbor, Weber *Bassoon Concerto*, 1st movement

Third: Daniel Park, 15, violin, Tampa, Tchaikovsky *Violin Concerto*, 3rd movement

Honorable Mention:

- Yu-Tin Lin, 15, Erhu, Tampa
- Kira Wales, 17, violin, Clearwater

Junior Instrumental

First: Miranda Isbitts, 12, violin, Clearwater, Bruch *Violin Concerto*, 1st movement

Second: Sophia Chen, 14, violin, Tampa, Bruch *Violin Concerto*, 1st movement

Third: Alexey Heroux, 10, violin, Lutz, Seitz *Violin Concerto No. 5*, 3rd movement

Honorable Mention:

- Alexandria Hudson, 11, violin, Trilby
- Samantha Kopec, 14, clarinet, Clearwater

Junior Piano

First: Sophia Chen, 14, Tampa, Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 2*, 1st movement

Second: Vincent Pham, 10, Tampa, Mendelssohn *Rondo and Capriccioso*

Third: Jithen Shriyen, 12, Land O Lakes, Chopin *Grand Waltz No. 5* and Bilotti *The Firefly*

The competition winners also performed their audition pieces at the afternoon recital following the awards ceremony.

The Florida Orchestra Musicians Association is passionate about making and sharing music with the community, as well as nurturing the next generation of classical musicians.

Funding sponsors of the competition include retired TFO musician William Don Owen, and TFO board members Maria P. Cantonis, Peter and Susan Betzer, Jeanne Coleman, Liz Sembler, Jane and Kent Fanning, James R. Gillespie, Gayle Bertelstein and Jane Strom, the North Suncoast Associates Volunteer Guild, and Marilou and Martin van Zanten.

For more news on The Florida Orchestra and its musicians, click on the [TFO Blog](#) and follow TFO Musicians on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

[About The Florida Orchestra](#)

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in the 2017-18 season, The Florida Orchestra is recognized as Tampa Bay's leading performing arts institution, the largest professional symphony orchestra in Florida, and one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in America. Under the leadership of Music Director Michael Francis, it performs more than 130 concerts a season, with series of classical, popular, and morning coffee concerts in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, as well as free Pops in the Park concerts. Dedicated to bringing music to all people, connecting to the community is a priority, with pre-concert talks, family and youth concerts and other educational activities. Kids and teens get in free to classical Masterworks concerts with Classical Kids tickets. To subscribe or buy tickets: 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286; floridaorchestra.org.