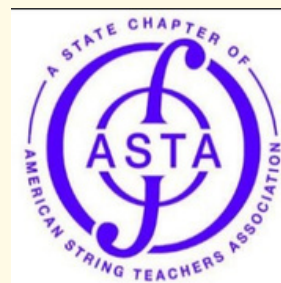


THE CHORDA



OR-ASTA Solo Competition 2024

We had a wonderful day of beautiful and amazing performances on November 17, 2024.
Congratulations to all the Finalists!

Junior Division:

- 1st place tie \$500 Hyun Lee, cello student of Hyun-Jin Kim
Haydn Concerto in C, mvt 1
1st place tie \$500 Kaylee Nah, violin student of Hae-Jin Kim
Wieniawski Polonaise Brillante Op. 4
3rd place \$200 Sawa Yamaguchi violin student of Carol Sindell
Wieniawski Concerto in D minor, mvt 1

Senior Division:

- 1st place \$1000 Andrew Lee, violin student of Carol Sindell
Sibelius Concerto in D minor, mvt 1
2nd place \$600 Asher Milman, violin student of Carol Sindell
Bach Unaccompanied Sonata No.1 in G minor, Fuga
3rd place \$400 Jacob Park, cello student of Valdine Mishkin
Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations



Junior Finalists are flanked by ASTA board member Clara Fuhrman on the left, and on the right side are OR-ASTA Treasurer Sharon Eng, Competition Co-Chair Lily Burton, and Eugene teacher Kara Eubanks.

Junior Finalists L to R: Hyun Lee, 1st place tie; Sawa Yamaguchi, 3rd place; Kaylee Nah, 1st place tie; Emily Rhew, Andy Shin, Yuri Yamaguchi, Yoojin Kang, Ezra Oncken, Ariel Han, Asher Lewis, and Ellie Liu.



Senior Division L to R: Andrew Lee, 1st place; Jacob Park, 3rd place; Asher Milman, 2nd place. With gift bags: Miranda Newman, Sarah Lee, Abigail Lee, Annie Rhew, Sabine Voelker, Nathaniel Nauman.

The two Junior Finalists who tied for 1st place shared equally the prize money for 1st and 2nd place.
Congratulations to all the teachers whose studios were represented in the Final Round Competition: **Heather Blackburn, Kara Eubanks, Paloma Griffin Hebert, Hae-Jin Kim, Hyun-Jin Kim, Lillie Manis, Valdine Mishkin, Maria Shim, and Carol Sindell.**

Judges for the Senior Division were **Noah Seitz, Yuqi Li, and Jennifer Arnold**. The Junior Division judges were **Valdine Mishkin, Yuqi Li, and Jennifer Arnold**. They did an excellent job scoring and writing comments, and we were honored to have them judging our competition.

Our consolation gift bags were filled with goodies from **Nothing Bundt Cakes, Beacock Music, and Kennedy Violins**. These businesses wanted to show their support with their gifts, which wonderfully enhanced the event.

Many thanks to our tireless volunteers who made the competition run smoothly: ASTA board members **Sharon Eng and Clara Fuhrman**, along with **Sakya Jayaweera and Ryan Downs**. We appreciate **Chemeketa Community College** in Salem hosting the competition this year in their beautiful auditorium. Three of their students also helped us tremendously that day: **Josiah Riberas, Gabriel Moreno, and Karisa Dyer**. Thank you all!

Lily Burton and Paloma Griffin Hebert
Co-chairs, OR-ASTA Solo Competition

Donations to OR-ASTA Annual Fund: Mid-Year Report

On July 1, 2024, OR-ASTA's new board launched its first ever Annual Fundraising Campaign. The purpose of this new endeavor is to allow OR-ASTA to sustain and enhance its gift-giving to benefit Oregon's young string students. These gifts include offering more quality summer scholarships at increased levels for talented students in need; providing grants to community string education projects like the Southern Oregon Strings Festival held in October 2024 in Grants Pass; increasing the amount of award money given to winners of the biennial Solo String Competition (November 2024); and more.

As of today, OR-ASTA has received contributions of money and in-kind support totaling more than \$3,000 from a number of sources. Our highest level **PLATINUM** donor this year is **Kennedy Violins** of Vancouver, who contributed more than \$1,500 in cash and in-kind support. **GOLD** donors included a \$500 gift from Portland-based **David Kerr Violins** and a \$500 gift from an anonymous donor; and contributions and in-kind assistance from wide-ranging **BRONZE** donors including **Holst Violins** in Grants Pass, **Beacock Music** and **Nothing Bundt Cakes** in SW Washington, the **Oregon Viola Society**, **Mark Moreland Violins**, and in-kind support and anonymous donations from ASTA members.

Our annual Fundraising Drive continues through to June 30, 2025, and will provide meaningful support in these many ways:

(continued on page 3)



Junior Division: Hyun Lee, left, and Kaylee Nah, right, tied for 1st place. Sawa Yamaguchi in the middle won 3rd place.



Jacob Park performing Rococo Variations by Tchaikovsky.



Events Calendar for 2025

- \$500 grant (October 2024) awarded to Southern Oregon Strings Festival held at Grants Pass High School
- \$3,200 in awards at the 2024 Solo Competition involving 20 finalists in two divisions (November 2024)
- Increased summer scholarship awards to \$3,000 (February/March 2025)
- Annual Oregon Student Honors Recital and Membership meeting (March 2025)
- Management and adjudication of Oregon ASTA Certificate Advancement Program (May 2025)
- \$500 grant to High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, for its Strings Masterclass series (May 2025)
- Student tuition and member grant support opportunities through to June of 2025 on an as-needed basis
- Planning of the October 2025 regional Biennial String Educators Conference (June 2025)

- February 15** Application due for "Showcase" (former Honors Recital)
- March 1** Application due for Summer Scholarships
- March 30** ASTACAP registrations due
- April 6** Showcase Recital
- TBD** Open Board Meeting
- May 2-4** ASTACAP



Summer Scholarships

Don't forget about the OR-ASTA summer scholarships, to aid your students in whatever summer programs they wish to attend! Requirements are: a video performance, a letter of recommendation from the ASTA-member teacher, and a short essay from the student describing the need for assistance, Check our website for more information: orasta.org.

ORASTA relies on the generous support of its community of friends in the strings community. Please take this opportunity to consider giving a 100% tax-deductible gift to OR-ASTA for the 2025 year.

Lillie Manis, President, OR-ASTA

Fall Orchestra Festival Grants Pass High School October 30, 2024

Submitted by Krista DeBolt



This was a really fun day for our Southern Oregon Orchestras. There were about 110 string players in attendance along with our special guests the Akhtamar Quartet from Belgium. Each orchestra had a short performance including an on-stage clinic with the Akhtamar Quartet members. The Quartet performed a concert for us playing 3 miniatures for string quartet by Komitas, called Al Aylugh, Yerkin Ampel e, and Kagavik; the Bruckner string quintet including Arnaud Ghillebaert; and ended with the 4th movement of Kenji Bunch's String Circle for string quintet. Had a fun pizza lunch all together and then finished our day with a full-group Halloween-themed piece: "The Evil Eye and the Hideous Heart" by Alan Lee Silva based on the Edgar Allen Poe short story, "The Tell Tale Heart".

Some comments by students:

“Attending a performance by a Belgium string quartet was a memorable and inspiring experience that allowed me to appreciate the cultural and musical richness of Belgium’s traditions. The quartet’s ability to bring both precision and emotion to the music was remarkable, as they skillfully combined technical mastery with expressive depth. This fall festival was not only a festival but a journey into the power of live music, leaving a lasting impression on me. My experience with the Belgium string quartet was a profound reminder of the beauty and power of chamber music. This event allowed me to witness the artistry, discipline, and emotional depth that define the best musical performances. The quartet’s ability to bring together tradition and innovation made the Fall Festival a memorable cultural experience, one that will stay with me long after the final note has faded.”

“I thought their performance was very interesting and it was really cool how they all complimented each other with their music and I could see they would all look at each other throughout the music to make sure they were on time and were with each other. We forget to do that in our orchestra. We are all so focused on ourselves and getting the pieces right that we forget to listen to the other sections and try to play with them.”

“Being one who has a generally challenging time staying focused for the entirety of concerts/plays, I found myself pleasantly engaged the entire performance. The pieces the quartet played were beautiful, and they brought so much personality to the songs. They had a very clear passion for their instruments and the pieces they were playing. It made the experience a lot more enjoyable. Something that particularly caught my attention was the piece Kagavik. They played it in their own special way, and it was a very uplifting sound. I found myself tapping my foot throughout the concert as all the pieces were so catchy and enjoyable. I would certainly go out of my way to see them perform again. In all honesty, I’ve seen orchestra performances by other quartets in the past, but none of them left such a lasting impression on me. I will remember this experience for quite a while. I also admired the fact that all of their outfits had the same pattern in some sort.”

Quartet information:

- Coline Alecian (first violin)
- Jennifer Pio (second violin)
- Ondine Stasyk (viola)
- Cyril Simon (cello)

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsGZGhTZ970>

WEBSITE : <https://www.akhtamarquartet.com/?lang=en>



OREGON AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

thanks these donors for their generous
contributions received from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025



Oregon ASTA website QR code

PLATINUM: \$1,500 and above



GOLD: \$500 to \$1,499



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Members' Corner

This section is for members to post announcements. Send your request to post to astaoregon@gmail.com with subject line "Members Corner". Thanks!

Send us your announcements, articles, and requests! We'd love to hear from you!