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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Peoria Symphony Guild Announces Winners of Young Artist Competition

“The judges were totally impressed by the musical expertise this year.”

Julie Kotewa, Director of Education and Outreach PSO Guild

Peoria, IL – The Peoria Symphony Guild is pleased to announce the winners of their 2017 Young Artist Competition which was held Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the Illinois Central College in East Peoria, IL. This annual competition is open to talented, young instrumentalists and vocalists living within a 100 mile radius of Peoria and is an exceptional learning experience for high school and junior high musicians. Categories for the competition include brass, percussion, piano, string, voice and woodwind instruments. The music selection is required to be standard orchestral concerto for instrument or aria for voice.

The first place winner has the privilege of performing with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra at the Peoria Symphony Orchestra Student Concert **“Heroic Spirit” on Friday, April 28, 2017 in the Peoria Civic Center Theater**. The Student Concert is a hallmark educational program sponsored by the Peoria Symphony Guild that attracts thousands of students from across Central Illinois. It offers students a live, interactive, forty-five minute performance with professional musicians from the PSO under the direction of George Stelluto, Music Director of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra.

The first place winner of the 2017 Young Artist Competition was Annie Bao, 14, a student at Mahomet-Seymour High School in Mahomet, Illinois. She won in two categories of strings and piano by performing the *Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26* by Max Bruch and the *Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54* by Robert Schumann.

The second place winner, Elizabeth Mattern, 17, a home-schooled student from Brimfield, Illinois performed the violin concerto *Andante e Rondo Ungarese, 2nd movement 2* by Carl Weber and the third place winner, Kaytlin Withers, soprano, 17, a student from Illinois Valley Central High School in Chillicothe, Illinois performed *O Mio Babbino* by Puccini and *I Deh Vieni, non Tardar* by Mozart.



First Place Winner
Annie Bao



Second Place Winner
Elizabeth Mattern



Third Place Winner
Kaytlin Withers

The Annual Student Concert is open to all children in grades 3-12, including home schools. Performances are at 9:30 and 11:00 am in the Peoria Civic Center Theater. Tickets are \$5 for students and adults and \$2 for students on a lunch subsidy. Complimentary chaperone tickets are available for school groups. Free parking is available with supervised unloading locations at the Peoria Civic Center.

For more information contact: Janice Lukich at jmlukich@gmail.com or 309.231.1814

For more information on the 2017 Student Concert click [here](#)
Registration forms [link](#)

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