Bexley Teen Violinist Awarded First-Ever Lois H. Allen $1000 Concerto Prize as Winner of the Columbus Symphony’s 2020 Young Musicians Competition

The Columbus Symphony today announced the winner of its 2020 Young Musicians Competition, 16-year-old violinist Cecilia Martin. As such, Martin has been awarded the first-ever Lois H. Allen Concerto Prize of $1,000 donated by the Friends of the Symphony and will also perform her winning piece as a soloist with the Columbus Symphony at The Symphony Unplugged! at the Ohio Theatre on Wednesday, March 18.

Now in its 67th year, the CSO’s annual Young Musicians Competition provides an opportunity for central Ohio students in grades 3-12 to perform for professional feedback from Columbus Symphony musicians and collegiate faculty. In addition, youth musicians in grades 8-12 are eligible to compete in a concerto competition.

The 2020 Young Musicians Competition hosted 88 youth musicians who performed for professional feedback and 20 youth musicians in the concerto competition. Martin won with her performance of Mendelssohn’s Concerto in E minor and will perform the same work as a soloist with the Columbus Symphony at The Symphony Unplugged!

The Columbus Symphony presents The Symphony Unplugged! at the Ohio Theatre (39 E. State St.) on Wednesday, March 18, at 10:30 am. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased in-person at the CBUSArts Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), online at www.columbussymphony.com, or by phone at (614) 469-0939.

The Symphony Unplugged! is made possible through the generous support of Greif, Inc.

About Cecilia Martin
Cecilia Martin, 16, has studied violin for eight years with Columbus Symphony violinist Tatiana Hanna. In January 2019, she joined the Starling program at the University of Cincinnati where she studies with Kurt Sassmanshaus. She is also an active chamber musician as a member of the Marquis quartet through Chamber Music Connection. In January 2020, Marquis won first place in the Ohio String Teachers’ Association Chamber Music Competition, and in February, were awarded honorable mention at the Midwest National Chamber Music Competition. Martin currently serves as co-concertmaster of the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra and performed with them as a soloist in 2019. She will study at the Bowdoin International Music Festival this
summer and has previously studied at Meadowmount School of Music (Ann Setzer ‘19, Sally Thomas ‘18), IU Summer Strings Academy (Gregory Kalinovsky ‘16 & ‘17), and Interlochen Arts Camp (Ara Sarkissian ‘15). She has participated in master classes with Vadim Gluzman, Augustin Hadelich, Rachel Barton Pine, Elizabeth Chang, and CSO concertmaster Joanna Frankel. Martin lives in Bexley and attends Laurel Springs Academy.

Additional finalists in the concerto competition were violinist Mathias Koo of Galena and violinist Anna Linder of Westerville.

The competition was judged by musicians from the Columbus Symphony and central Ohio collegiate faculty. Finalists were judged by CSO Principal Bassoonist Betsy Sturdevant, CSO Bassist Jena Huebner, and Tianshu Wang, professor of piano at Capital University’s Conservatory of Music.

www.ColumbusSymphony.com

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The 2019-20 season is made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically. The CSO also appreciates the support of the Greater Columbus Arts Council, supporting the city’s artists and arts organizations since 1973, and the Theodore R. Magnuson Unrestricted; Barbara Hardy Unrestricted; Arthur E. and Dorothy D. Shepard; and Helen E. Sandfort Arts-in-Education funds of The Columbus Foundation.

About the Columbus Symphony Orchestra
Founded in 1951, the Columbus Symphony is the only full-time, professional symphony in central Ohio. Through an array of innovative artistic, educational, and community outreach programming, the Columbus Symphony is reaching an expanding, more diverse audience each year. This season, the Columbus Symphony will share classical music with more than 200,000 people in central Ohio through concerts, radio broadcasts, and special programming. For more information, visit www.columbussymphony.com.

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