

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

BELLEVILLE – It was an evening of excellence.

That's how John Chisholm, chair of the 48th annual Quinte Rotary Music Festival, summed up this popular event's weekly highlight: otherwise known as the Silver Trophy Competitions.

The best of the Quinte area's young musicians gathered at St. Matthew's United Church last Friday to vie for some impressive hardware – and cash prizes – as adjudicators for this year's music festival took it all in from the Belleville church's balcony.

And 13-year-old accomplished musician Jeanette Huang was the big winner of this year's competition, playing both violin and piano before an audience of approximately 125 to earn the coveted Silver Strings and Silver Tray awards, as well as the Joe Demeza prize for best performance of the evening.

Joining her in the winner's circle was vocalist Rosemary Woods, who won the Rose Bowl Award, and flautist Brandon Ranjith, who received the Silver Pitcher for best instrumentalist.

The panel of three adjudicators – Amanda Brunk (voice), John Palmer (bands, strings and instrumental) and Terry Head (piano) judged a total of 11 talented young musicians, whose top marks during the weekly festival earned them a spot in the trophy competitions.

Huang played Beethoven's violin Sonata in D Minor as sole competitor in the Silver Strings category, and her piano performance of Consolation No 3 by Franz Liszt edged out four other competitors for the Silver Tray: Peter Zhang (Chopin's Waltz Op. 69, No. 2), Jenna Martinello (Sonata in D Major, Samuel Arnold), Denise Wu (Golliwogg's Cakewalk, Debussy) and Aaron Yuan (The Journey, A. Piazzola).

Performing with Woods, who sang Schubert's Die Forelle in the Rose Bowl category, were Amy Park (And This is My Beloved, George Forrester), Danielle Dettlinger ('Til There Was You, Meredith Wilson), Jillian Foley (Vanilla Ice Cream, Joe Masteroff), and David Savic (Der Neugierige, Schubert).

Brandon Ranjith was the sole competitor for the Silver Pitcher, with his flute performance of Farewell, by Ernesto Kohler.

"All of the competitors performed very well," said long-time music festival committee member Judy McKnight following Friday's event. "They are a great example of the highly-polished talent we have in the Quinte area."

Each of the category winners in Friday's competition receive a 500-dollar cash prize, and the Joe Demeza prize is worth an additional \$150.

The adjudicators, who included piano and harp specialist Susan Toman for the festival's first four days, heard more than 125 competitors perform over 300 pieces during the week-long festival held at four city venues: St. Matthew's and Eastminster United churches, The Salvation Army Church and Albert College. Categories included voice, choral, piano, bands, strings and instrumental.

Chisholm said the festival, which is jointly sponsored by the Belleville, Trenton, and Quinte Sunrise Rotary clubs, also relies on community support from sponsors, including this year's platinum level sponsor, Rotarian Rudy Heijdens. This year's silver sponsors are Albert College, Pinnacle Music Studios, and the Quinte Area Optometrists.

There is still time to take in some of the festival's top performers at the annual Concert of Stars, scheduled for April 27th at 7 p.m. at Albert College. Admission is free for this popular event, a showcase of the week's best performances and presentation of the festival's major awards and cash prizes.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

More information is available on the festival website at [www.quinterotarymusicfestival.com](http://www.quinterotarymusicfestival.com)

Photo supplied by Lola Reid-Allin

Thirteen-year-old musician Jeanette Huang earned top honours at the 48th annual Quinte Rotary Music Festival in Belleville last Friday, winning three of the five prizes of the Silver Trophy evening, held at St. Matthew's United Church April 15. Huang, photographed during her performance of Beethoven's Sonata in D Minor, won the festival's Silver Strings award, the Silver Tray for piano, and the Joe Demeza prize for the evening's best performance. A total of 11 young musicians with the week's highest marks were selected to perform in the Silver Trophy event, one of the festival's highlights. The major awards, as well as performances by some of the most talented competitors, will be featured in the Concert of Stars April 27th at 7 p.m. at Albert College. Admission is free.