

cognizart

By MetroArts Inc.



32nd YOUNG ARTISTS DEBUT!

April 24, 2026

Patricia Reser Center for the Arts

WHO WE ARE



Founded in 1993, Cognizart is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts education organization powered by community support. In 2025, Cognizart merged with Orchestra Nova Northwest to broaden opportunities for youth and audiences of all ages. cognizart.org novanw.org



Shannon Emory

Executive Director, Cognizart
Chief Executive Officer, Orchestra
Nova Northwest



Adam Eccleston

Executive Director, Orchestra
Nova Northwest
YAD! Mentor



Steven Byess

Music Director, Orchestra Nova
Northwest



Laura Tuffli

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32nd YOUNG ARTISTS DEBUT!

APRIL 24, 2026, 7:30 PM Patricia Reser Center for the Arts



WELCOME

Shannon Emory, Chief Executive Officer, Orchestra Nova Northwest & Executive Director, Cognizart

PERFORMANCES

**MADURAI N. KRISHNAN, KOLA
MAYIL VAAHANANE VARNAM**

Dance
Anusha Jeyakumar & Reshma Jeyakumar, dancers

HADYN

Keyboard Concerto in D major, Hob. XVIII:11
I. Vivace
Ellie Yoon, piano

DEBUSSY

Two Arabesques, L. 66
Arabesque No. 1. Andantino con moto
Isha Marla, piano

SAINT-SAËNS

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso in A minor, Op. 28
Abigail Lee, violin

Aarabhimanam, Ragam: Ragamalika, Thalam: Adi
Bhavika Pasuparthi, Indian Carnatic vocals

GANESH RAJAGOPALAN
GRAMMY-AWARD WINNER

Nalinakanthi
Amatra Jagannathan, classical Indian violin

POPPER

Hungarian Rhapsody, Op. 68
Julia Ma, cello

SAINT-SAËNS

Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33
I. Allegro non troppo
Brandon Lee, cello

MOZART

Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K. 216
I. Allegro
Emily Shih, violin

YUMI TORIMARU
TAKOHACHI DIRECTOR

Portland Raincolors
All YAD! Artists
featuring
Jin Nakajima & Calvin Stuczynski, Taiko

The 32nd Young Artists Debut! is made possible by **Karen & Cliff Deveney, The Templeton Foundation...**
and donors like you!

32nd YOUNG ARTIST DEBUT! WINNERS



BHARATANTYAM INDIAN DANCER



ANUSHA JEYAKUMAR, 17, is a junior at Sunset High School. She began her journey in Bharatanatyam, a form of Indian Classical Dance, under the tutelage of Smt. Sivagami Vanka at the age of 4. She is currently a senior dancer at the Kalabharathi School of Dance. Anusha has performed at various prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, New York and the Alagappa Performing Arts Academy in Karaikudi, India. She successfully completed her Arangetram, a debut classical recital, with her sister this past year. She was also awarded the title "Taala Laya Nipuna" from Kalabharathi School of Dance for her exceptional ability in rhythm. In addition to dance, Anusha has been learning to play the Parai, an Indian Folk Drum, for the past 6 years.

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Carnatic violinist **AMATRA JAGANNATHAN**, 15, is a sophomore at Skyline High School who began Carnatic violin training at age 8 under Grammy Award winner Ganesh Rajagopalan, debuting a 2.5-hour solo concert at 12. She also studies Carnatic vocal music and Western classical violin, and has performed as soloist and accompanist across the U.S. and India. A four-year Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra member, she has performed at prestigious venues including WMEA All-state Orchestra. She recently received the Youth Cultural Ambassador Award from ICPAO and was featured on Thribinna–The Indian Symphony Project, launched by A. R. Rahman. She also mentors younger students at the Eswara School of Arts.



Cellist **BRANDON KIM**, age 15, from Portland, Oregon, who began playing at age 10 and studies with Maria Shim. He is a member of the Portland Youth Philharmonic and has participated in solo festivals, including winning the 2025 Baroque Festival and performing in Chamber Music Northwest’s Project Prelude. Brandon earned First Place in the 2026 American Protégé Piano and Strings Competition and was named a Cognizart Young Artist Debut Winner. He is also part of the Back to Bach Project. Outside of music, he enjoys sports, writing, painting, and volunteering at youth baseball clinics.

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Violinist **ABIGAIL LEE**, age 17, is a junior at Westview High School in Portland, Oregon. She's been playing since she was 7 under the tutelage of Hae-Jin Kim. This year, Abigail performed with the Jewish Community Orchestra as a winner of its Young Artist Competition, she was selected as finalist and performed at the Oregon ASTA Showcase, and will be performing with MetroArts as winner of the YAD! Program. She has won many other competitions, but alongside her solo studies, Abigail has been a part of the Portland Youth Philharmonic Association for 7 years and is currently a first violinist of the Philharmonic Orchestra and PYP Camerata Chamber Orchestra. This summer, she will be attending Bowdoin International Music Festival under esteemed violinist Sergiu Schwartz and Center Stage Strings at MPulse. Due to her passion for music, she is actively involved in non-profit community music education organizations and currently resides as the Regional Director of Project Prelude and the Director of Public Relations with Music4Harmony. Besides music, Abigail loves spending time with her family and hanging out with her friends.



Pianist **ISHA MARLA**, 15, attending Jesuit High School, has been learning Western Classical Piano for the last 9 years (OMTA Syllabus Level 9), under the guidance of Ms. Paula Watt. She received an Honorable Distinction at the 2023 OMTA Classical Festival, as well as an Exceptional Distinction at the 2024 Ribbon Festival for her performances. She has also played at local events, senior centers, Portland downtown, etc. She has also been playing concert, marching, and jazz percussion through her middle and high schools. For the last 9 years, she has also been learning Bharatanatyam, an Indian classical dance form under the guidance of Smt. Sivagami Vanka. As part of the dance school, she has done over 50 performances at various cultural events across the nation. Their school was invited to dance at Carnegie Hall's All India Dance Festival, marking one of the major moments in her dance journey. Last year, her dance team placed 1st in the nation at the American Natya Idol dance competition in St. Louis. She is very excited for this opportunity to learn and grow alongside other talented artists.



Carnatic vocalist **BHAVIKA PASUPARTHI**, 16, is a sophomore at Jesuit High School. She began training in Indian Carnatic classical vocal at the age of five. For the past five years she has been training under Grammy Award winner, Ganesh Rajagopalan. In September 2024, she presented her three-hour graduation concert, accompanied by multiple distinguished artists. Besides her Carnatic training, Bhavika learns Western classical voice with Ms. Angela Niederloh and performs with the Pacific Youth Choir, Jesuit Chamber Choir, and Portland Opera's Rising Stars program. She has won awards at several prestigious competitions, including National YoungArts (winner with distinction), Gold International Classical Music Competition, American Protégé, and Malaysia Tyagaraja Festival. She was recently selected for the Oregon All-State Choir 2026 following a highly competitive audition.

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Violinist **EMILY SHIH**, 10, is a 4th grader at the Montessori School of Beaverton. She began playing the violin at age 5, with her teacher, Andrea Hawkins. Emily is a member of the Portland Youth String Ensemble, part of the Portland Youth Philharmonic organization where she currently serves as co-concertmaster. Emily's recent accomplishments include participating in the 2025 Oregon ASTA Honors Recital, receiving an outstanding award at the 2025 OMTA Concerto Festival, and Oregon Mozart Players 2026 Young Soloist Competition junior division finalist. In her free time, Emily enjoys reading, creating digital art, and Jazz/contemporary dancing. She is honored to be a YAD winner and looks forward to continuing her growth as a musician.



ELLIE YOON, 13, is an 8th grader at Skyridge Middle School. She began studying the piano at age 5 and is currently a student of Shinmyung Rho. Ellie was a Winner of the 2026 Young Artists Debut! and the 2025 Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition. She also won the Bronze medal in the 2026 Bellevue Symphony Concerto Competition and a Special Award in the 2026 Amadeus Chamber Orchestra Youth Competition. Ellie is also a flutist in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Concert Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Outside of music, she enjoys traveling with her family, photography, and badminton.

2025 YAD! Visual Artist Winner



CHLOE LIN, age 13, is an 8th grade student at West Sylvan Middle School. As a visual artist, she has loved art since she was old enough to hold a pencil. At an early age, Chloe was exposed to nature by attending a Waldorf school. This allowed her to really examine and observe nature's beauty and appreciate the different colors and shades. Chloe currently develops her skills through many mentors from her school art teacher to extracurricular art classes at Art World School. Her favorite mediums to work with is acrylic and oil paints for she thinks it captures nature's essence very well. Chloe's talent has been recognized with several honors, including 2nd place in the Washington County Poster Contest, Honorable Mention in the 2022 Junior Duck Stamp Contest, 1st place in her school's Spooky Art Contest, and selection to exhibit her work in the Portland Public Schools Gallery.

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS



2026 YAD! Ambassador; 2025 YAD! Winner

JIN NAKAJIMA, 13, is a 7th grader at Winterhaven K – 8 School and a core member of Takohachi, Portland’s intergenerational Japanese drum and music ensemble. He is committed to sharing Japanese culture with youth, hoping to inspire others as he was inspired early in life. Jin performs Shinobue, Tsugaru Shamisen, and Taiko drums, and was a 2025 Young Artist Debut! Youth Trio winner. His musical journey began with Taiko classes in kindergarten and grew into a deep love for traditional Japanese arts. He studies with Yumi Torimaru and also plays the cello in Portland Youth Conservatory Orchestra and Maida Mind. He is also a dedicated competitive swimmer.



2025 YAD! Winner

CALVIN STUCZYNSKI, 18, is a senior at Grant High School in Portland, Oregon who has been playing taiko in elementary school. He is now an active member of Takohachi, a Japanese performing arts ensemble, where he plays taiko (Japanese drums) and shinobue (Japanese bamboo flute). Inspired by Takohachi’s collaborative spirit and the Japanese principle of onkochishin, honoring tradition while embracing new voices and ideas, he has grown both as a performer and a teacher. In 2025, Calvin had the honor of being selected as a winner of the 2025 Young Artists Debut! program, allowing him to bring Japanese culture to a new stage.



2026 YAD! Visual Artist Ambassador

Miriam Willey, 16, is a visual artist and a sophomore at Grant High School. She has been drawing since elementary school, but truly started focusing on her art 6 years ago. She finds inspiration in the world and things around her—especially in birds, landscapes, and people. Her emotions also influence and shape her artwork. She was a 2023 selected visual artist in The HeART of Portland museum showcase and has sold art in a local gallery. In her spare time, she loves to run long distances, sing, and read as many books as she possibly can. She also loves kids and will occasionally babysit, or walk her adorable dog, Gizmo.

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Shinmyung Rho, Yumi Torimaru, Emi Nakajima, Lenore DeNisco, Knight Wilkey

SEASON 25-26
Works by
*Tchaikovsky
& Bernstein*

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Resilience and Triumph

MAY 2026
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



DEREK CHOI, 19, violin
2022 YAD! Winner

"I am currently finishing up my second year at Vanderbilt University, where I am pursuing a Bachelor of Music in violin performance under Cornelia Heard. My past year has included working in the violin sections of the Nashville Symphony, Nashville Ballet, and New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida, and I was recently honored to collaborate with violinists Gil Shaham and Adele Anthony in Julian Milone's *En Coulistes*. This summer, I will be joining the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra in Charleston, South Carolina as assistant concertmaster. I am so happy to see the next generation of YAD! artists thriving!"

ZORRO AWARD



Zorro was a Grand Champion Abyssinian with a larger-than-life personality. When anyone came to the door, he rushed to be the first to greet them and seek their attention. He aimed to please and was most definitely an uncatlike cat, whom even "dog people" couldn't resist.

The Zorro Award Winning Artist will possess great artistic skill, enthusiasm, and dedication for the Young Artist Debut! program. They have also gone above and beyond to fulfill all YAD! program requirements. The winner will receive a Zorro Award and \$1,000, provided by Cognizart Board President Karen Deveney, to further artistic endeavors.

Got kids ages 6 1/2 to 12? Need SUMMER Camp?

Visual arts, music, theater & dance come alive at Cognizart by MetroArts Inc.'s 360 Arts Camp!

Three weeks only this July
Monday - Friday
July 6-24, 2026
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
World Forestry Center
Hurry! Final spots remain!
Register campers ages 6 1/2 to 12 today!

**Access to the arts for all!
Scholarships are available!**

Kids 13+? We have Counselor positions available!

cognizart.org