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High-resolution photos of the winners can be found [here](#).

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## **Bassoonist Xayvion Davidson, 19, Wins First Place and Audience Favorite at Inaugural Cynthia Woods Mitchell-Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition**

*Competition Merges Legacies of Two Legendary Houston Women, in Association with Houston Symphony*



L-R: Winners **Momoko Uchida** (3<sup>rd</sup>), **Lorien Britt** (2<sup>nd</sup>), and **Xayvion Davidson** (1<sup>st</sup> place & Audience Favorite), with TMF Director **Alan Austin**

HOUSTON, TX – The inaugural winners of the **Cynthia Woods Mitchell-Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition** were declared yesterday, as part of the annual Texas Music Festival (TMF) at the University of Houston. First Prize and the Audience Favorite went to **Xayvion Davidson**, 19, a bassoonist from Nashville who just completed his freshman year at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music. Davidson wowed the audience with Rossini’s Bassoon Concerto. In addition to a \$2,000 cash prize, he wins the honor of playing a solo with the TMF Orchestra at the festival’s final concert on June 24, under the baton of **Maestro Andrew Grams**. Davidson will also be invited to perform next season with the Houston Symphony, an enviable privilege that will introduce him to music lovers in Houston and beyond.

Second Prize (\$1000) went to flutist **Lorien Britt**, 19, a Dallas native and student at Manhattan School of Music, and Third Prize (\$750) went to violinist **Momoko Uchida**, 22, a New York native and recent graduate of the Mannes School of Music. The two remaining finalists were harpist **Lily Primus**, 20, a Denver native attending Rice University/Shepherd School of Music, and double bassist **Colin Roberts**, 19, a Baylor University student who was born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in Houston.



This year saw the kick-off for the new competition, which merged the formerly separate Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artist Competition, two competitions renowned in Houston for bringing fresh talent to light. The competition was open to any TMF Fellow, whose piece was required to be from the Classical era (1730-1820), and the piece had to be performed entirely from memory.

As the competition is a collaboration between TMF and the Houston Symphony, the judges' panel was composed of stellar talent from the Houston Symphony, including **Adam Dinitz** (English horn), **Christopher French** (cello), **Nancy Goodearl** (French horn, retired), **Eric Halen** (violin and co-concertmaster), **Richard Harris** (trumpet), and **Sophia Silivos** (violin).

The finalists are all Fellows in the Texas Music Festival, a three-week summer academy for young, highly-advanced orchestral musicians seeking a career in classical music. The Fellows receive intensive coaching, lessons, and master classes, and learn from some of today's most talented conductors and performers while giving Houstonians high-quality, remarkably affordable concerts.

The Festival continues for two more weeks. This Tuesday, African American pianist **Awadagin Pratt** makes his TMF debut. For more details, see the schedule below.

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#### **About the Competition**

The Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition began in 1976, while the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artist Competition was founded at the inception of the Texas Music Festival in 1990. Both competitions existed to foster the talent of outstanding young instrumentalists and to help pave the way for their future success as classical musicians. Both ladies were pillars of the Houston arts community—their names are seen on programs, scholarships, and buildings across the region, and their legacy is felt by the millions of people who attend Houston concerts every year. Because of them, Houston has a worldwide reputation for excellence in classical music, both in its institutions and the musicians trained here.

#### **About Texas Music Festival**

Founded in 1990 and based at the University of Houston, [The Immanuel and Helen Olshan Texas Music Festival](#) was created to provide young professional musicians with a nurturing environment to develop skills in orchestral, chamber music, and solo performance. The program's various training institutes prepare musicians for future careers in music while offering the chance to learn from today's leading conductors and coaches, and to experience the vastly varied musical cultures of the most diverse city in the U.S. The festival provides a rich foundation for young musicians to hone their performance skills while providing Houston concertgoers with an affordable summer festival of classical music and jazz starring some of the world's most talented performers.

#### **About the Houston Symphony**

Under Music Director Juraj Vácuha, the Houston Symphony continues its second century as one of America's leading orchestras with a full complement of concert, community, education, touring, and recording activities. One of the oldest performing arts organizations in Texas, the Symphony held its inaugural performance at The Majestic Theater in downtown Houston on June 21, 1913. Today, with an operating budget of \$34.325 million (FY23), the full-time ensemble of professional musicians presents more than 130 concerts annually, making it the largest performing arts organization in Houston. Traditionally, musicians of the orchestra and the Symphony's two Community-Embedded Musicians also offer over 1,000 community-based performances each year at various schools, community centers, hospitals, and churches reaching more than 200,000 people in Greater Houston annually.



After suspending concert activities in March 2020, the Symphony successfully completed a full 2020–21 season with in-person audiences and weekly livestreams of each performance, making it one of the only orchestras in the world to do so, while the Symphony’s Education and Community Engagement team continued to fulfill its mission through creative and virtual means throughout the COVID pandemic. The Houston Symphony remains committed to livestreaming all of its 2023–24 season to a broad audience in over forty-five countries and all fifty states, one of few American orchestras dedicated to transmitting live performances to a size-able audience outside its home city through this technology.

The Grammy Award-winning Houston Symphony has recorded under various prestigious labels, including Koch International Classics, Naxos, RCA Red Seal, Telarc, Virgin Classics, and, most recently, Dutch recording label Pentatone. In 2017, the Houston Symphony was awarded an ECHO Klassik award for the live recording of Alban Berg’s *Wozzeck* under the direction of former Music Director Hans Graf. The orchestra earned its first Grammy nomination and Grammy Award at the 60<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony for the same recording in the Best Opera Recording category.

## REMAINING 2023 SUMMER CONCERT SEASON (JUNE 6-24, 2023)

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Tuesdays:	Piano Recital by Guest Artist
Wednesdays:	Master Class with Guest Artist
Thursdays:	Faculty Chamber Music Concert
Saturdays:	Full-Orchestra Concert

### WEEK 2:

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 7:30PM

*Sharon Ley Lietzow Piano Series*\*\*

**Recital: AWADAGIN PRATT\***

Naumberg prizewinner presents a fascinating program, exploring connections among seemingly disparate composers Phillip Glass, Couperin, Vasks, and Tchaikovsky, ending with Liszt’s monumental Sonata in B Minor.

Program: Glass: Glassworks; Couperin: Les Barricades Mistérieuses; Vasks: Castillo Interior; Hersch: Nocturne for Left Hand; Rachmaninoff: Prélude in D; Chopin: Nocturne in B; Tchaikovsky/Pletnev: “Intermezzo” from The Nutcracker; Liszt: Sonata in B Minor

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 9:30AM FREE

**Master Class: AWADAGIN PRATT**, featuring Keyboard Academy participants.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 7:30PM

**Faculty Chamber Music Concert**

American/Russian: Faculty artists perform a program featuring American composers and Shostakovich’s Piano Quintet.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 17

6:30PM, **FREE**

- Pre-concert music: members of Virtuosi of Houston
- Pre-concert lecture: *Settling the Score*, Dr. Andrew Davis

7:30PM

**Festival Orchestra Concert**

**GERARD SCHWARZ\***, conductor

Longtime maestro of the Seattle Symphony, Gerard Schwarz, returns to Houston to lead an exciting program of music by 21<sup>st</sup>-century African-American composer Valerie Coleman, an arrangement of a tonally lush movement from a Webern string quartet, and Prokofiev’s searing Symphony No. 5.

Program: Coleman: UMOJA; Webern/Schwarz: Adagio (Langsamersatz); Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5 in B-flat

\* Texas Music Festival debut

\*\* New this year

### WEEK 3:

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 7:30PM***Sharon Ley Lietzow Piano Series\*\****Recital: AMY YANG\***

Now a faculty member at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, Houston's own Amy Yang has established an impressive career. She returns home for a program featuring music of Bach, Brahms, Schubert, Schumann, and her father Hua Yang.

Program: Bach: Toccata in D Minor; Yang: Piano Suite No. 2; Brahms: Hungarian Dances; Schubert: Impromptu No. 1; Schumann: Sonata in F Minor, Op. 14

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 9:30AM, FREE****Master Class: AMY YANG**, featuring Keyboard Academy participants.**THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 7:30PM****Faculty Chamber Music**

*Fantastic Journey*: Join our world tour, as faculty artists explore offerings from composers around the globe and close the series with Paul Schoenfield's delightful Café Music.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 23****11AM, FREE****Keyboard Academy Ensemble Concert****7PM, FREE****Jazz Institute Orchestra****Noe Marmolejo**, director

Classic to contemporary big-band jazz, played by Houston high school all-stars from the TMF Jazz Institute.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24****12PM, FREE****Keyboard Academy Solo Piano Concert****2PM, Organ Recital Hall, FREE****Keyboard Academy Solo Organ Concert****6:30PM, FREE**

- Pre-concert music: members of **Virtuosi of Houston**
- Pre-concert lecture: **Settling the Score**, Dr. Andrew Davis

**7:30PM****Festival Orchestra****ANDREW GRAMS\***, conductor**with 2023 Cynthia Woods Mitchell/Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition Winner**, TBA

One of America's most exciting young conductors, Andrew Grams, leads a program of virtuoso music for orchestra: Berlioz's *Corsaire Overture* and the iconic *Symphony No. 3* by Aaron Copland. The winner of the Mitchell-Hogg Young Artist Competition joins the Festival Orchestra as soloist.

Program: Berlioz: *Le Corsaire Overture*; Copland: *Symphony No. 3*

\* Texas Music Festival debut

\*\* New this year

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR TICKETS, LOCATION, ETC.

IMMANUEL & HELEN OLSHAN

# TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL<sup>®</sup>

MOORES SCHOOL OF MUSIC | KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS | UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



**Locations:** All 2023 events are located within the Moores School of Music on the University of Houston campus, 3333 Cullen Blvd at Elgin, entrance 16, 77204

**More information:** [www.tmf.uh.edu](http://www.tmf.uh.edu)

**Tickets:** [www.uh.edu/artstickets](http://www.uh.edu/artstickets) or call box office (713-743-3388)

**Season Subscriptions:**

Full season pass (all 9 ticketed concerts): \$175 (\$125 student/senior)

Orchestra Series (3 Saturdays): \$75 (\$55 student/senior)

Piano Series (3 Tuesdays): \$50 (\$36 student/senior)

Faculty Recital Series (3 Thursdays): \$50 (\$36 student/senior)

**Individual Tickets:**

Individual Orchestra Series Ticket: \$30 (\$18 student/senior)

Individual Piano Series Ticket: \$20 (\$16 student/senior)

Individual Faculty Recital Series Ticket: \$20 (\$16 student/senior)