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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **WINNERS OF THE 2008 SYMPHONY YOUTH COMPETITION ANNOUNCED SPONSORED BY AUGUSTA SYMPHONY GUILD**

The **Augusta Symphony**, under the direction of Maestro Donald Portnoy, and the **Augusta Symphony Guild** held its annual **Symphony Youth Competition** on **Sunday, January 13 at 1 p.m. at Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre at Augusta State University.**

**Ling-Yi Kung**, a junior at Davidson Fine Arts School, is the 2008 **performance winner in piano**. Ling-Yi performed the first movement of Mozart's *Piano Concerto in D Minor*. Miss Kung is a student of Clara Park, a faculty member at Augusta State University. As the performance winner, Miss Kung received a \$150 award and performs with the Augusta Symphony at the Sunday afternoon, April 27 Publix Charities Family Concert at Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre at Augusta State University.

**Emily Roberts**, a senior at Evans High School, is the **second performance winner**. Emily performed on flute *Concertino, Opus 107* by Chaminade. She received a \$100 award and will also be featured in the Publix Charities Family Concert on Sunday, April 27.

**Michael J. Davis**, a senior at Davidson Fine Arts School, and **Mi El Jang**, a senior at Evans High School, were runners-up and each received a \$50 award. Michael competed on violin and performed *Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Opus 26, 1<sup>st</sup> movement* by Max Bruch. Mi El competed on piano and performed the first movement of Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto, No. 2, Opus 18*.



**Pictured l-r: Michael Davis, Maestro Donald Portnoy, Ling-Yi Kung, Emily Roberts, Mi El Jang, and Assistant Conductor Neil Casey**

The 2008 Youth Competition was open to all instruments and featured 10 students from the CSRA, representing grades 8-12 performing on the following instruments: piano, violin, and flute. The Competition requires each competitor to perform a movement from a selection of his/her choice; however, the work must be a part of the literature for orchestras, as the winners

are considered featured soloists with the orchestra at the April 27 Augusta Symphony Family concert highlighting young artists. Judges were Augusta Symphony Music Director Donald Portnoy and Augusta Symphony Assistant Conductor Neil Casey.

The **Augusta Symphony Guild** developed the Symphony Youth Competition in 1994 as a community outreach project. It continues to be the Guild's vision to provide opportunities for young, dedicated musicians to perform with the Augusta Symphony.

For more information about education and outreach programs, contact Jennifer Witcher, Augusta Symphony Director of Education & Outreach, at 706.826.4706 or [jenniferwitcher@augustasympphony.org](mailto:jenniferwitcher@augustasympphony.org). For complete information on The Augusta Symphony, visit the Symphony's website at [www.augustasympphony.org](http://www.augustasympphony.org). Located on the second floor of the Sacred Heart Cultural Center, the Symphony office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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