

About Our Students

Nathan Bellinger, cello • student of Kathleen Murphy Kemp • Diana & Christina Wang Memorial Scholarship



At 13, Nathan Bellinger is the fifth child of Michael and Nerina Bellinger, and is the third to attend Hochstein. All his siblings play string instruments. In addition to cello, Nathan also plays piano and has studied organ. He has participated in Hochstein Sinfonia and Hochstein Philharmonia, and will play in HYSO in the fall. In addition to playing in a chamber ensemble at Hochstein, Nathan and his sister frequently provide musical support at their church. He is a student at St. John Bosco Schools in East Rochester. In his free time, he likes to read, play football, and ride his bike. Nathan would like to thank Mrs. Kemp for her knowledge, support, and encouragement. He would also like to thank his mom – for requiring that he play an instrument at a young age – and his dad for providing encouragement and financial support.

Lillian Brickman, guitar • student of Tim Shannon • Knights of Pythias Memorial Scholarship



Lillian Brickman is 13 years old and attends School of the Arts as an Art Major. She has been studying the guitar with Tim Shannon for 8 years. In addition to music, Lillian's hobbies include drawing, volunteering at Hipocampo Books on South Avenue, and synchronized swimming with the Rochester Dolphins.

Wendy Brown, violin • student of Kathy Tarantelli • Diana & Christina Wang Memorial Scholarship



Wendy Brown is 10 years old and lives in Fairport. Wendy has been playing the violin since she was 3 years old, under the excellent tutelage of Kathy Tarantelli. Wendy is presently in 5th grade and attended the Fairport School District up until this year, before becoming homeschooled. Her hobbies include swimming, bicycling, and playing with her friends. Wendy hopes to be a teacher or veterinarian in the future.

Noah Busch, violin • student of Pia Liptak • Walter J. Holloran Memorial Scholarship



Noah Busch is a sixth grader who currently studies at Twelve Corners Middle School in Brighton. Noah participates in orchestra and a chamber group at Twelve Corners, and was named concertmaster of the NYSSMA All-County Elementary Orchestra in 2020. He has also participated in musicals for a number of years, playing the title role in the Brighton Summer Arts production of *Aladdin*, and Schlomo Metzambaum in *Fame*. Noah has been a student at Hochstein since he was 18 months old, and has been playing violin since he was three. He currently participates in a string quartet as well as the Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra. Noah is a huge fan of the soccer team Liverpool F.C. and enjoys watching and supporting them. In addition to watching soccer, he has played on the Rochester Football Club team for the past five years. When he's not in school, playing music, or on the soccer pitch, Noah loves to read and do origami.

Thomas DeFisher, piano • student of Paula Bobb • Ruth & Sidney Salzman Memorial Scholarship



Thomas DeFisher is a 16-year-old sophomore at Williamson High School and has been playing the piano since the age of five. He first studied piano as a student at Braselton's Music in Marion, and has been a student of Paula Bobb at Hochstein since 2014. Thomas has played piano at numerous school, church, and local community events, including the Neighborhood Acting Company's production of *State Fair*.

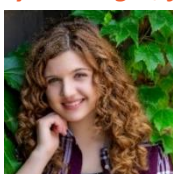
At school, Thomas is a flutist in Concert Band, a pianist in Jazz Band, and a tenor in Concert Choir and Select Choir. Last November, he participated in the mixed chorus at NYSSMA's Area All-State Festival. Thomas volunteers as an instrumentalist at Holy Trinity Church in Webster. Thomas also enjoys theatre and has participated in several school musicals including *Oliver!*, *The Music Man*, and *Matilda the Musical*. Thomas is involved in several school sports including soccer, indoor track and tennis. He is also a member of the Wayne Wings U17 soccer team and has been playing with the organization for the past six seasons.

Joshua Fugate, piano • student of Pia Liptak • Dorothy Pund Allen Memorial Scholarship



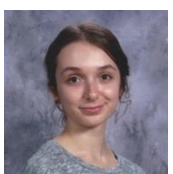
Joshua Fugate began violin lessons at Hochstein at the age of three. Since then, he has played in all four of Hochstein's youth orchestras and has participated in multiple chamber and choral events. He is currently a member of the Roberts Wesleyan College Community Orchestra, as well as his church's music team. In 2016, Joshua began taking piano lessons from Dr. Gary Palmer, who has been a continual support in his musical endeavors. In 2017, Joshua was accepted into Hochstein's Honors Certificate Program. Joshua is in eleventh grade and is homeschooled by his mother. After graduation, he plans to study Psychology at Rochester Institute of Technology. Joshua is grateful for the invaluable time invested in him by his violin teachers, Kathy Tarantelli and Dr. Pia Liptak, which led him to receive the honor of performing on *Live from Hochstein*.

Lydia Geiger, flute • student of Rita George-Simmons • Honors Certificate Program Graduate



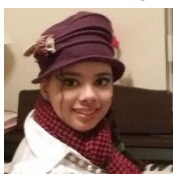
Lydia Geiger is the salutatorian of the class of 2020 at Batavia High School, where she has been a member of the Band, Orchestra, and Mixed Choir. She has performed in several NYSSMA Area All-State Bands and Orchestras, in addition to multiple All-County Bands. Lydia has also performed with the Hochstein Scholarship Flute Choir and the Philharmonia Orchestra. She has performed in masterclasses with Dr. Christine Moulton, Tamara Thweatt, and Irina Stachinskaya. She will also be performing in the Honors Performance Series in Vienna, Austria in 2021. At her high school, Lydia has been the president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and a member of the National Honor Society, Math Team, Jazz Band, and Pit Orchestra. Lydia will be continuing her studies at The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam in the fall.

Gabriella Graney, soprano • student of Sandra Boysen Sluberski • Knights of Pythias Memorial Scholarship



Gabriella Graney is currently a sophomore at Brighton High School and is ecstatic to have the opportunity to be a winner in this year's Merit Scholarship Competition. Gabriella is also in the Honors Certificate Program at Hochstein, and sings in Brighton High's Show Choir, Treble Choir, and Vocal Jazz Group. She has a deep passion for theatre and has been featured in many productions over the past six years. She is incredibly grateful for her voice teacher, Dr. Sandra Boysen Sluberski, for all of the encouragement and opportunities offered to her. Gabriella's future plans are centered on earning a BFA in Musical Theatre and pursuing theatre and music as a career.

Victoria Hayashi, piano • student of Willie LaFavor • Lillian Taylor Hubbard Memorial Scholarship



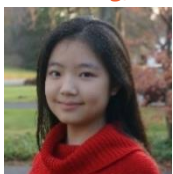
Victoria is currently in seventh grade at Twelve Corners Middle School in Brighton. She began studying the piano at the age of 3 at Paganini Music School in New Jersey. After her family moved to New York, Victoria became a student at Newburgh Performance Arts Academy and had the opportunity to perform in front of her first crowd at the Ritz Theatre. That experience and her first place win in her school's talent show reinforced her motivation and passion for music. Victoria and her mother eventually moved to Rochester, and Victoria became a student of Dr. Willie LaFavor at The Hochstein School. Since then, she has enjoyed playing in Dr. LaFavor's studio recitals and All-School Recitals, and looks forward to continuing her studies in music.

Katherine Huang, flute • student of Diane Smith • Donald Yungkurth Memorial Scholarship



Katherine Huang is a junior at Pittsford Mendon High School. She has played the flute for nine years and currently is studying with Mrs. Diane Smith. Katherine is a part of her school's Wind Ensemble and has also performed in the pit orchestra for several musicals, including *Peter Pan*, *Sister Act*, *Les Misérables*, and *Cinderella*. She has been to numerous NYSSMA All-County and Area-All State Festivals and is a part of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. At her church, Katherine shares her love for music as a worship team leader. She also enjoys swimming competitively for Pittsford's Varsity Swim Team and working with toddlers at Sunday school.

Ji-Mi Jang, cello • student of Kathleen Murphy Kemp • Honors Certificate Program Graduate



Ji-Mi Jang is currently a senior at Pittsford Mendon High School. She has been studying cello with Mrs. Kathleen Kemp since the age of eight, and found a passion for Music Composition under the guidance of Dr. Margaret Henry. She serves as the principal cellist of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and was principal cellist of the NYSSMA Area All-State Orchestra. As the winner of the Cordancia Toscano Concerto Competition, Ji-Mi has been featured as soloist with Cordancia Chamber Orchestra. Ji-Mi has

been part of Hochstein's Honors Certificate Program since 2015, and has performed and attended master classes with her piano trio. She recently composed a three-movement string quartet, and is looking forward to continuing music composition and exploring various instrumental combinations. Ji-Mi often draws inspiration from her other hobbies, including reading, running, exploring new recipes, and listening to works by Shostakovich and Bartók.

Jett Kopalek, violin • student of Pia Liptak • Sydney & Pearl Rubin Memorial Scholarship



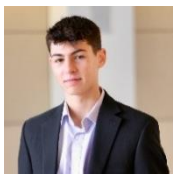
Jett Kopalek is a senior at Rush Henrietta High School and is a student of Pia Liptak. Jett began studying the violin at Hochstein at the age of 4. He is a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra and plays chamber music outside of Hochstein as well. Jett is a member of the Tri-M Music Honors Society and National Honors Society at his high school, and enjoys being involved with the music community in the local area. He is the starting catcher for the Rush Henrietta Royal Comets Varsity Baseball Team, and plays throughout the summer with the local American Legion Post Team.

Joseph McQuaid, violin • student of Marcos Kreutzer • Dorothy Pund Allen Memorial Scholarship



Joseph McQuaid is a sixth grader at Twelve Corners Middle School in Brighton. He has been studying the violin since the age of six, and currently studies with Mr. Marcos Kreutzer at Hochstein. Joseph's favorite activities include playing video games (his favorite activity "by far"), playing the violin, reading, and playing outside. In the future, Joseph plans to be a programmer or game designer.

Luke Pisani, piano • student of Gary Palmer • David Romig Memorial Scholarship



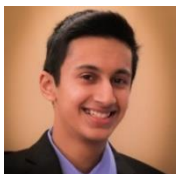
Luke Pisani is in 9th grade at Hilton High School and has studied piano with Dr. Gary Palmer for almost 10 years. Luke is also an accomplished violinist, and his musical achievements include concertmaster of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra (2019-20), HYSO Conducting Apprentice (2019-20), First Prize Winner in the Junior Instrumental Division of the NYSMTA Heddy Kilian Empire State Competition (2019), and HYSO Concerto Competition Winner (2018, 2020). Luke participates in a number of ensembles, including the Hochstein Saturday String Quartet, Hilton Jazz Ensemble, and Cornerstone Presbyterian Church praise team. In addition to music, he plays basketball for Hilton High School. lukepisani.com/youtube

Isaac Pollock, guitar • student of Tim Shannon • Lillian Taylor Hubbard Memorial Scholarship



Isaac Pollock is currently in 11th grade and has been studying with Dr. Tim Shannon for the past 5 years. He has been participating in the Honors Program at Hochstein since his sophomore year. At 17, Isaac is the oldest of 7 brothers. He is homeschooled and is currently taking classes at Genesee Community College through the Accelerated College Enrollment program. Isaac is also working on his Pilot's License with the goal of becoming an airline pilot! Besides activities at Hochstein, Isaac enjoys playing music with his family or for church. He also plays bass guitar, guitar, and sings for a Daybreak – a worship band that he and his friends started. Isaac also enjoys the outdoors, road biking, swimming, playing ultimate Frisbee, and playing the piano.

Agathya Visveswaran, guitar • student of John Wiesenthal • Honors Certificate Program Graduate



Agathya Visveswaran is a senior at Brighton High School. He has been playing the guitar since the age of six, when he started studying classical guitar at Hochstein with John Wiesenthal. He also is an ardent jazz guitarist and has been studying with Bob Sneider at the Eastman School of Music for the past 6 years. Agathya is a four-time winner of a Hochstein Merit Scholarship for classical guitar, and has received several Eastman Merit Scholarships for jazz guitar. He was admitted into the Hochstein Honors Certificate Program in 2016 and will be completing the program this year.

Agathya plays for the Brighton High School Jazz Ensemble and has performed in the NYSSMA All-County Jazz Band, at the Rochester International Jazz Festival, on *Live from Hochstein*, and in a number of fundraising events. He is a serious basketball player and has played for the Brighton Barons and various AAU teams. He enjoys listening to many genres of music, creating digital art, playing with his dog, and hanging out with his friends. Agathya will attend the University of Michigan this fall and plans to major in Interdisciplinary Physics and Product Design. He will also pursue a Minor in Music focusing on Music Technology and Production.