

WIPA WINS MLK YOUTH AWARD

BY MABEL PAIS

"Intelligence plus character is the true goal of education" - Dr. Martin Luther King

"Being recognized with this special award on the actual MLK day is extremely touching." - Peter H. Gistelinc, Executive Director, WIPA

On MLK day, January 20, 2020, The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts' (WIPA) Paterson Music Project (PMP) announced that it is this year's recipient of the Paterson Youth Council (PYC) Dr. Martin Luther King Youth Recognition Award for its exemplary work with over 250 students in grades 2-9 throughout the city of Paterson.

The annual award recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals and one youth-serving organization making a difference in the lives of Paterson's youth. The Paterson Music Project, as well as four students, one adult, and one elected official, was honored for its impact in Paterson at an awards ceremony held on Monday, January 20 at 10:00am at The Brownstone House, 351 West Broadway in Paterson.

PMP Director Elizabeth Moulthrop said, "It is an honor to be recognized by the Paterson Youth Council. There are so many incredible organizations in Paterson with people behind them making a positive impact on the city of Paterson on a daily basis. At PMP, we are grateful to work alongside such an inspiring group of change makers and passionate community advocates. I count myself lucky to get to work with some of the best kids



Left to right: Peter H. Gistelinc, Dana Nix, Shanna Lin, Terrence Thornhill, Elizabeth Moulthrop, and Helen H. Cha-Pyo

Photo / Courtesy WIPA

and families in New Jersey and make music with them every day."

The PYC, a citywide youth-led and youth-driven civic organization, has been representing the interests of young people in the city of Paterson since 2006. The Youth Council sponsors special events throughout the year, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Youth Recognition Award Breakfast, and is facilitated by the New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC).

WIPA Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo said, "This special recognition comes to us as a huge encouragement. Dr. King said, 'Intelligence plus

character is the true goal of education,' and at the Paterson Music Project (PMP), we continue to strive to be a place where our young students can grow both in mind and in character through the transformative power of music. I would like to applaud our talented and dedicated staff and teaching artists for their tireless efforts in providing excellent instruction to our students."

"Being recognized with this special award on the actual MLK day is extremely touching," said Peter H. Gistelinc, Executive Director at WIPA. "Expanding the Paterson Music Project per our strategic plan will remain our first priority."

The PMP empowers children to achieve their full potential through the joyful pursuit of musical excellence. Inspired by the global El Sistema movement, PMP uses music education as a vehicle for social change in its home city of Paterson.

PMP provides tuition-free musical training to students throughout Paterson after school.

PMP is a program of the WIPA. Wharton is New Jersey's largest non-profit performing arts education organization serving over 1,500 students of all ages and abilities through a range of classes and ensembles including the 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) which serve 500 students in grades 3-12. Beginning with early childhood music classes for toddlers, the Performing Arts School (PAS) offers 500 private lessons and group classes each week, ensuring there is something for everyone of all ages and abilities.

For more information on WIPA, NJYS, PMP, PYC, and PAS, visit www.WhartonArts.org

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The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) on January 30 announced that two of its ensembles, the NJYS Jazz Orchestra and Charles Mingus Combo, are among twelve finalist ensembles in the 12th Annual Charles Mingus Festival & High School Competition, February 14-17 at The New School of Jazz and Jazz Standard in New York City.

Organized and presented by Dr. Keller Coker, The New School of Jazz, Sue Mingus, and Let My Children Hear Music/The Charles Mingus Institute, the event showcases dozens of talented high school students from across the United States. This year's finalists, in categories for both big band and combos, will travel to New York City from California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Washington to explore aspects of Mingus's music. On Saturday, February 15, students will participate in instrumental clinics, workshops, lectures, films, and jam sessions at The New School of Jazz's Arnhold Hall at 55 West 13th Street. All events are open to the public. On Sunday, February 16, the public may attend the Mingus Competition: a full day of concert performances in Tishman Auditorium at 63 Fifth Avenue. Outstanding soloists from the

NJYS Jazz Orchestra Finalist in Charles Mingus Fest & Competition



NJYS Jazz Orchestra

Photo / Courtesy WIPA

Competition will be invited to sit in with the Mingus Big Band, which will perform all weekend at Jazz Standard, 116 East 27th Street (between Park and Lexington).

"I believe teaching jazz is teaching the history of 20th

century American music and culture with all of its complex sociological issues. Its indisputable influence on American popular music and culture of the 20th century is foundational," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Music Director of the New Jersey Youth Symphony. "Here at the New Jersey Youth Symphony, we believe in the importance of jazz education and are committed to offering our young musicians exceptional opportunities to learn, experience, and perform jazz at an extremely high level. NJYS wouldn't be complete without a jazz program," said Peter H. Gistelinc, Executive Director of the WIPA.

"This is quite an accomplishment and an honor for our program, especially for the second year of the NJYS Jazz Orchestra," said NJYS Director of Jazz Julius Tolentino. "This festival consistently has the top jazz bands in the country, and I'm excited for our students to be recognized at the national level."

For more information about the New Jersey Youth Symphony jazz program, visit www.NJYS.org.



Dr. Min Kwon

Photo / Courtesy WIPA

Wipa Presents Min Kwon's Piano Master Class

BY MABEL PAIS

"Master classes offer so many benefits for performers and audience members alike."
"(Dr. Min Kwon's) in-depth musical knowledge combined with positive energy will bring many 'a-ha' moments to everyone in attendance."

- Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director-Principal Conductor, NJYS

**Dr. Min Kwon, Professor of Piano
Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers
University
Gives Piano Master Class at Berkeley
Heights, Friday, February 21**

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) will present a piano master class with Dr. Min Kwon on Friday, February 21 from 4:00 to 6:00pm at the Performing Arts School (PAS) located at 60 Locust Avenue in Berkeley Heights. The event is free and open to the public.

The piano master class will feature seven outstanding young students selected from Wharton's Performing Arts School (WPAS) and New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS). Charlotte Bandekow, age 13, of Chatham; James Schadt, age 15, of Califon; Michael Pack, age 14, of Basking Ridge; Isabel Zarbin, age 14, of Chatham; Benson Liu, age 17, of Morristown; Joie Kuan, age 13, of Somerset; and Sarah Ouyang, age 16, of Basking Ridge, will

perform works by Schumann, Chopin, Schubert, Debussy, Schredin, and Joplin.

"Master classes offer so many benefits for performers and audience members alike," said Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo. "We are so fortunate to welcome Dr. Min Kwon to the Performing Arts School this month. Her in-depth musical knowledge combined with positive energy will bring many 'a-ha' moments to everyone in attendance. I highly encourage all pianists in our region to come and see a master teacher at work!"

To learn more about Dr. Min Kwon and WIPA, visit WhartonArts.org

(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)