

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Monmouth County Kids Score Big in International Composition Competition

KANATA, Ontario, June 25, 2007— Monmouth County, NJ has another reason to be proud. It is home to many talented musicians, and now, a few budding composers. Ten kids from the area received awards for their entries in the MYC International Composition Festival, including First Place winner Gloria Liu. Gloria, a 6-year-old Holmdel resident in her second year of study in the Music for Young Children music program, placed 1st in the U.S. and 2nd internationally for her composition "Good Friends". Gloria is a student of Chiung-Yin Liu at Liu Music School in Middletown.

Other children who also received awards are:

Alex Tsai (age 6, Holmdel) -- 2nd place in US region for "Baby Dino Chomp",

Joanna Friedrich-Sroka (age 5, Middletown) -- 2nd place in US region for "The Butterfly Song"

Chalisa Tiawskul (age 4, Red Bank) -- 4th place in US region for "Spring Time".

There are also six Finalists: Chantal Varey (Holmdel), Noah Lee (Colts Neck), Maria Downey (Holmdel), Angela Rudel (Morganville), Renee Grunwald (Wall) and Alexander Kasternakis (South Amboy). They are all students of Chiung-Yin Liu.

"Chiung-Yin is an extremely talented and dedicated teacher who works hard to ensure her students receive the very best music education available. I've watched Chiung-Yin teach the classes and know her students are lucky to have her as their teacher" says Roxanne McGahay, East Coast Coordinator of Music for Young Children.

Music for Young Children and Frederick Harris Music Company, one of the oldest music publishing companies in North America, had teamed up for the 20th MYC International Composition Festival, the largest Composition Competition in the world. It took a week for all of the more than 13,000 compositions from across the United States, Canada, South Korea and New Zealand, to be played and the top Regional and International pieces chosen. The students range in age from 3-10.

Twelve adjudicators played every composition along with Canadian composer Christine Donkin from Grande Prairie, Alberta, sponsored by FHMC. Miss Donkin thought "the week of judging enjoyable" and "an amazing amount of work".

The successful Music for Young Children program, with corporate head office in Kanata, Ontario, was founded in 1980 by Frances Balodis. The program is taught in small age-groups with adult and child both participating. Besides piano instruction, singing, rhythm ensembles, sight reading, ear training, theory, the instruction of composing is also an integral part of the learning in Music for Young Children music program as it gives students a sense of confidence, improves focus and enhances analytical skills. Music For Young Children music program is taught by independent teachers throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand and South Korea with approximately 24,000 students enrolled this year.

For more information and photos, please contact instructor Chiung-Yin Liu at 732-332-0558 or e-mail:

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