

2024 Lowell Mason House Inspiration Competition Award Winners

1. Penny Hanna

A graduate of the University of Michigan. Penny Hanna is the former project director of Young at Heart program in Aptos, California and is now serving as the director of the Cabrillo College Stroke Center Choir, also in Aptos, CA. Penny Hanna plays popular, jazz, and classical music on saxophone, bass, guitar, and viola da gamba. After spending most of her career on the road as a multi-instrumentalist and singer, she is thrilled and inspired to be part of the Cabrillo College Stroke Center Choir, blending voices with all the enthusiastic and gifted students. After a stroke, many individuals lose language capabilities yet are able to sing because music lives in a different part of the brain. The choir gives students the opportunity to exercise voice and harmony, as well as to perform for Stroke Center parties.

2. Patricia Ryan

Patricia Ryan is a performing cellist based in Minneapolis, MN. During her tenure in the Artaria String Quartet, she performed the complete Beethoven and Bartók String Quartet Cycles as well as faculty of the Artaria Chamber Music School and Stringwood Summer Music Camp. She also teaches at Walker|West Music Academy, serving the Twin Cities community. She is a core member of the Houston-based conductorless ensemble KINETIC, a member of new music ensemble 10th Wave Chamber Collective based in the Twin Cities as well as the Delphia Cello Quartet, and is a founding member of Trio Zenia. She has performed with some of the world's leading chamber musicians including pianist Emanuel Ax, the Pacifica String Quartet, violinist Geoff Nuttall, violist John Largess, Steven Dann and Max Mandel, cellist Norman Fischer and Jean-Michel Fonteneau, and esteemed faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Ms. Ryan has completed a second Masters of Music at Rice University Shepherd School of Music on full tuition scholarship under the tutelage of Norman Fischer, an Artist Certificate in Chamber Music and a Masters of Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Jean-Michel Fonteneau, and a Bachelors of Music at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music with Tchaikovsky Competition laureate Nathaniel Rosen and Alexander Suleiman on full scholarship. Ms. Ryan performs on a 1976 Gio Batta Morassi cello and a 1988 Roger Zabinski bow. www.patriciaryancello.com

3. Angelo Kortyka

Angelo Kortyka is an educator, visual consultant, designer, and adjudicator based in Lakewood Ohio. He has designed award winning marching band shows for programs in Northeast Ohio and Northwest Pennsylvania and is currently the director of instrumental music at Longfellow Middle School in Lorain, Ohio.

Prior to his current position, Angelo taught at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio. At St. Edward, he conducted the symphonic band, marching band, beginning band, jazz ensemble, jazz combo, taught history of rock and roll and music theory, and assisted with school plays,

orchestra, and choir. Under his tenure the marching band achieved a decade of superior ratings at the state level and began attending LMBA, Bands of America, and US Bands events.

Mr. Kortyka is a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certified teacher and holds degrees from Tennessee Technological University (B.M. - Music Education), University of Cincinnati - C.C.M. (M.M. - Tuba Performance) and The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (M.Ed. - Music Education). In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Kortyka enjoys playing and performing on Tuba. Active as a soloist from 2000-2009, he has given over 10 full recitals of tuba solo repertoire. He is a past member of the Chattanooga Tuba Quartet, Moccasin Brass Quintet, Jericho Brass, Cincinnati Brass Band, Cleveland Winds, and the Patriot Community Band. He was also a member and soloist with Rogues Hollow Regiment on baritone during the 2023 season.

Honorable Mention – Danielle Kim and Arin Sarkissian

Danielle Kim began playing flute in the sixth grade while she was living abroad in India and continued her flute studies in Qatar and the U.S. Currently, Danielle is pursuing a M.M. degree at The Colburn School with renowned performer and pedagogue Jim Walker. Danielle Kim is a former fellow of the Spoleto Festival U.S.A, NYO-USA, and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. She has won various competitions such as the William C. Byrd Young Artist Competition, the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society Instrumental Scholarship Competition, the National Young Arts Foundation Competition, and various national flute organization competitions.

An aspiring orchestral flutist, Danielle also enjoys performing for community outreach as well as performing chamber music with friends. She was a University of Maryland Graduate Woodwind Quintet Fellow, where she received a stipend to intensely rehearse and regularly perform with a quintet. Danielle's primary instructors include Jim Walker, Sarah Frisof, Amy Porter, Leah Arsenault, Alberto Almarza, Jihoon Shin, Youn Young Yi, and Saeyoung Bae. She received her BM in flute performance from the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Amy Porter.

Arin Sarkissian, originally from Los Angeles, California, is the Principal Flutist of the Victoria Symphony. Most recently, Arin was named the 2022 Michael Measures 2nd Prize recipient by the Canada Council for the Arts. In the summer of 2022, he made guest artist appearances at Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal's [La Virée Classique](#), appeared in orchestral and chamber performances at Ottawa's National Arts Centre, and performed alongside the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. Prior engagements include summers at the Music Academy of the West, New York String Orchestra Seminar, Orford Summer Music Academy, National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute, and Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra of the United States.