

OPTION 3

Wilmette makes stormwater decision, Page 3

SURVEY SAYS

Residents weigh in on minimum wage, Page 6

SPECIAL TRIP Wilmette rabbi travels to D.C. in support of kidney laws, Page 8



THE WILMETTE BEACON™

WILMETTE & KENILWORTH'S AWARD-WINNING HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER wilmettebeacon.com • April 26, 2018 • Vol. 8 No. 33 • \$1

A **Century MEDIA** PUBLICATION



Anya Liu, 13, of Wilmette, practices on her violin.
PHOTO SUBMITTED

Masterful Musician

Wilmette violinist will perform at Carnegie Hall in June, Page 4

NEWS COVER STORY

Wilmette student set to live out dream in NYC

HILARY ANDERSON
Freelance Reporter

Anya Liu will see her dream come true.

The 13-year-old Marie Murphy student and Wilmette resident has been selected for the 2018 Middle School Performance Series and will perform as a violinist at Carnegie Hall with the Honors Junior Orchestra in June.

"It is such an honor for me and a dream come true," said Liu, who also is a pianist. "Ever since I was little, I heard other violinists and pianists play and wanted to perform in an orchestra."

Mary Rudzinski, the Marie Murphy and Wilmette Junior High Orches-

tra teacher, nominated Liu. She auditioned last fall for the Honors Performance Series and was accepted after a review by the Honors Selection Board.

"Being selected to the Honors Performance Series is something Liu should be extremely proud of accomplishing," said Nancy Richardson, program director of the Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. "Acceptance to this elite group is a direct result of the talent, dedication and achievements demonstrated in her application and audition recording."

Liu will join other performers from 44 U.S. states, several provinces of Canada, Isle of Man,

Mexico and Taiwan.

"I did not really expect to be selected," Liu said. "I checked my email during school one day and saw that I made it. I was so excited and immediately called my parents and told them the good news."

Liu said while her parents enjoy music, they are not particularly musical when it comes to playing instruments.

She thinks her brother, Samuel, a New Trier junior, may have influenced her.

"My interest in music probably has something



Liu



Anya Liu, 13, of Wilmette, who will be performing at Carnegie Hall has a violinist in June, also plays the piano. PHOTO SUBMITTED

to do with watching my brother play," Liu said. "I thought his playing was really cool and told my parents that I wanted to do that, too."

Liu says she started playing the violin in first

grade and began the piano in fourth grade.

"I really enjoy music," Liu said. "The pieces I play are all different and give different feelings and emotions. Playing the violin and piano makes me happy."

She obviously reads music but sometimes plays by ear.

"I listen to a piece and sometimes can play it without looking at the sheet music for the number," Liu said.

Liu's life is not all music.

She is a member of a local swim club, Swift Aquatics, and involved in her school's Science Olympiad. Liu and members of her science team recently went to state competition in Champaign and won third place.

Liu will join other junior finalist performers for five days in June in New York.

Full story at WilmetteBeacon.com.