

PRESENTED BY ASIAN AMERICAN
CIVIC SCHOLARS

Very Asian Youth Concerts

St. Louis Art Museum

April 7, 2024

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.



Concert logo created by Grace Dai ('26 Marquette HS)

The Asian American Civic Scholars



AACS is a community and a platform, striving to represent the marginalized and give voices to AAPI youth with the tools to stay civically engaged. We believe that by empowering and engaging Asian American youth, we can all emerge as changemakers.

The May Book Project

The Very Asian Foundation, in partnership with We Need Diverse Books, launches The May Book Project to help schools and libraries build and maintain robust Asian American youth literature collections for all readers.

We are raising national awareness of the need to create inclusive libraries, give readers access to up-to-date Asian American youth literature, and provide funding to donate books to at-need libraries.

The project is inspired by St. Louis high school students who asked their schools for more Asian American literature during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and were ignored. The May Book Project is a vetted, high-quality, and free resource to help libraries support readers.



A huge thanks to our sponsors...

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Event Schedule

Program

1:00 PM

SLAM Family Sunday Program starts

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

Very Asian Youth Concert One

3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Very Asian Youth Concert Two

Featured Performances

Jasmine Flower - Jerry Chang on Piano

Studio Ghibli Medley - String Quartet

Remembering Southern China - St. Louis

Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble

Racing Horses - St. Louis Traditional Chinese

Music Ensemble (Only in Concert One)

Give Me a Rose - St. Louis Traditional Chinese

Music Ensemble (Only in Concert Two)

Happy Canal Water to My Village -

Hanqing Yin (Only in Concert Two)

Easy - Kpop Dance

Keerthana Dayarani - Students of Maia

Bollywood Dance - Hritika and Meenakshi

Arirang - St. Louis Youth Ambassadors

Orchestra

Doraji Taryeong- St. Louis Youth

Ambassadors Orchestra

On The Way to School - St. Louis Youth

Ambassadors Orchestra

Guest performer - Mai Lee





Featured Performers



Jerry Chang - Jerry Chang, a 10th-grade student at John Burroughs School, is a young pianist and recipient of prestigious awards including National Young Arts Winner with Distinction and Chopin Scholar by the U.S. Chopin Foundation. He has showcased his talent on national radio programs like NPR's From the Top and Tiny Desk Concert. He will play "Jasmine Flower," a famous Chinese Traditional Folk Song arranged by Peter Schindler.

String Quartet - Aiden Moon, Eric Chen, Kathrine Nguyen, Ellie Chen

The String Quartet is made up of St. Louis's finest youth string musicians. All four participate in the St. Louis Youth Symphony and Webster Preparatory Program. On top of the rigorous ensemble training, they partake in various solo competitions, masterclasses, and camps.

St. Louis Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble - This performance features three young performers from the St. Louis Traditional Chinese Ensemble, Elizabeth Hung and Max Zeng on the Erhu, a two stringed Chinese instrument, and Maggie Zeng on the Pipa, at times referred to as the Chinese Lute. The trio will present Remembering Southern China, Racing Horses (violin/Erhu, Concert 1) and Give Me A Rose (Pipa, Concert 2).

Hanqung Yin - Performing on the Gu Zheng, a traditional Chinese instrument, Hanqung has showcased her guzheng skills at a variety of different concerts and venues. She will be performing Happy Canal Water to My Village during Concert 2

Mia Li - A 9th grader from John Burroughs, Mia started Chinese dance as a 4th grader. She brings the South of the Clouds, a dance of the Dai ethnic group of Southwest China to Concert 1.

Kpop Dance - April Zhang, a senior, teaches K-pop dance at the St. Louis Chinese Language School. She is an advocate for Asian voices. She brings a solo choreographed by her, called Easy.

Bollywood Dance Duo - a semi-classical dance brought by Hritika and Meenakshi.

Students of Mala - A showcase of the traditional South Indian music called Carnatic Music, Sreeramrutha Lanka and Sri Vaishnavi Krishnan, students of Mala Gopinathan perform the Keerthana Dayarani, composed by Thagaraju in the ragam (tune) Mohanam, set to Kanda Chapu thalam (the beat).

St. Louis Youth Ambassadors Orchestra - The St. Louis Youth Ambassadors Orchestra is a Korean/Asian ensemble of accomplished young musicians from the St. Louis region. Performers include Ian Cho, Jane Cho, Keanan Choe, Ian Chung, Donna Do, Sophia He, Yugeon Kim, Eunchan Lee, Yohan Lee, Leah Noh, Sam Noh, Jean Park, Stephen Park, Lawson Robinson, Charis Shing, Max Zeng, Leo Zhu

Mai Lee (Guest Performer) - St. Louis grown R&B singer, Mai Lee's music takes inspiration from her Vietnamese immigrant family. Singing has helped Lee find her Asian-American voice and navigate through the difficulties of life. She recently released her first album *FRIENDZ*. Concert 2





Concert Planning Team



The 2024 Very Asian Youth Concert Planning team is a group of high schoolers in the St. Louis area who have a passion for supporting the Asian community. With this concert, the team hoped to raise a spotlight to the incredible Asian youth talent in the area, and support the May Book Project, an initiative that promotes Asian Literature in schools. The team, along with Dr. Min Liu, Applied Communication Studies Professor at SIUE, have planned and executed this concert and hope you thoroughly enjoy the performances! We also appreciate the support & advice from Ms. Audrey Kwong of SLSO.

Tejas Arun

'25 at Marquette High School

Favorite Book - Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Eric Chen

'26 at Marquette High School

Favorite Book - The Renegades Trilogy by Marissa Meyer

Emily Chien

May Book Project Ambassador

'25 at Marquette High School

Favorite Book - The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Amrutha Lanka

'25 at Lafayette High School

Favorite Book - Lunar Chronicles series by Marissa Meyer

Anneliese Nguyen

Director of Fundraising & Design

'26 at Clayton High School

Favorite Book - Queen of Air and Darkness by Cassandra Clare

Katherine Nguyen

Co-Artistic Director

'26 at Clayton High School

Favorite Book - The Stranger by Albert Camus

Max Zeng

Co-Artistic Director

'26 at Clayton High School

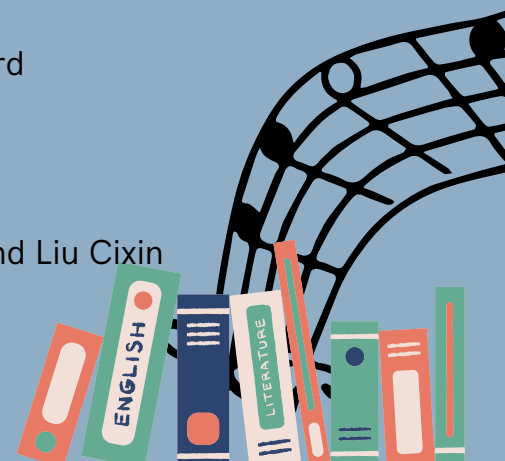
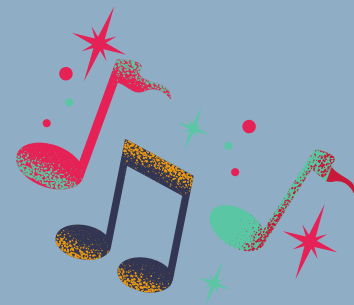
Favorite Book - Enders Game by Orsen Card

Dante Zou

May Book Project Ambassador

'26 at Clayton High School

Favorite Book - Anything by Brandon Sanderson and Liu Cixin



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Civic Scholars!



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Book Project



We thank the support of the 2023/2024 Executive Team Members of AACCS Stuti Dasgupta (Director), Emily Chien, Carissa Choi, Max Zeng, Alex Zhang, and Dr. Min Liu