

## 2017 Kiwanis Festival – Stratford Provincial and National Results

Chloe Weir placed first in Open Music Theatre competition at the Ontario Music Festivals Association (OMFA) Provincial Finals held at Hamilton May 27 to June 3 and went on to take first place in musical theatre at her second appearance in the National Competition that took place in Ottawa August 6 to 13.

Janis Auster, Executive Director of the Stratford Kiwanis Festival of the Performing Arts said: "We are immensely proud of Chloe. Music theatre plays a strong role in our Festival. Advancing to the Provincials is an achievement in itself. That explains why we are equally proud of all 37 performers from Stratford who earned the right to go to the Provincials at Hamilton."

Among the highlights:

Hannah Burgsma placed first in grade eight harp.

Second place finishes went to the Avon Public School Choir directed by Mark McIntosh and Ji Won Baxter, in grade 10 Upper Strings.

Placing third were Maddox Keller both in Junior Music Theatre and Jessica Richardson-Tweddle in Open Voice.

Gavin Nguyen placed third in both in Junior Piano Concertos and grade nine piano.

Maya Wilson finished third in grade six Voice and earned an honourable mention in Junior Music Theatre. Other honourable mentions were awarded to the Stratford Concert Band led by Lawrence Gauci; Graham Lumsden in Open Brass and Emily Wan in Diploma Piano.

Elysse Delaney was a finalist in both grade eight Voice and Advanced Music Theatre.

Additional Stratford performers were finalists in several categories. These included:

Lauren Gracey and Ruby Watson in Elementary Music Theatre; Neila Keller and Anna Gough in Intermediate and Sean Dolan in Senior Music Theatre; Yizhuo Chen was a provincial finalist in Diploma Piano. Other piano finalists were Jacob Cressman and William Liang, grade six; Ruby Worden, grade seven; Steven Chen and Rachel Regier, grade eight, and Zhening Li, grade 10; Kelly Wang and Elina Ho, in open piano;

Violin finalists were Asteria Buzek and Sarah Olsen, grade seven; Aaron Olsen, grade eight; and, Liam Westman, grade nine. Vanny Hu was a grade 10 finalist on the cello;

Voice finalists were Zander Nielsen and Emma Rouse, grade seven; Rachael Frankruyter, grade eight.

Others advancing to the Provincials from the Kiwanis Festival of the Performing Arts were: Kianna Warkentin and Gavin Sibley in Junior Speech and Drama; Sabrina Meadus in Intermediate Speech and Drama; Brendan Cato Wong in grade 10 piano and Elementary Piano Concerto; Graci Leahy in Intermediate Piano Concerto and Hardy Westman in grade six cello.