

Arden Teen Earns Scholarship and Performance Awards at Philadelphia International Music Festival Virtual Concerto Competition

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(Bryn Mawr, PA, September 24, 2020) The Philadelphia International Music Festival is awarding over \$12,000 in scholarships and prestigious performance opportunities to eleven young musicians who took the top spots in PIMF's annual Concerto Competition.

The winner of the division for 15-to-18-year-olds is 17-year-old Aaron Lipsky of Arden. He earned an \$1800 scholarship for his performance of Carl Maria von Weber's Concertino for Clarinet, Op. 26. He'll also take the stage in the PIMF Winners Circle Concert with members of The Philadelphia Orchestra, to be scheduled this winter or next spring as soon as COVID-19 conditions permit.

"The Philadelphia International Music Festival has been hosting international competitions for over 20 years," says PIMF President Sandy Marcucci, "but this is a year like no other. As we've done with our immersive summer programs, we took the instrumental concerto competition online, which really opened it up to the world – we had submissions from Shanghai to Sugar Land, Texas and from Russia to Radford, Virginia. And I say it every year, that the talent we see can never be surpassed – but this year, it really hit a new high note!"

Musicians in four age groups from age 8 years to age 19-plus submitted video recordings that were judged by a distinguished panel that included international piano soloist Svetlana Smolina, Director of the Piano Program at The Philadelphia International Music Festival; Daniel Han, Violin, The Philadelphia Orchestra; Louis Scaglione, President and Music Director of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra; and Gi Lee, Clarinet Faculty of The Philadelphia International Music Festival and Artist-in-Residence at the Boyer College of Music at Temple University.

ABOUT The Philadelphia International Music Festival:

The **Philadelphia International Music Festival (PIMF)** is a summer music program directed by **Kimberly Fisher**, Principal Second Violin of The Philadelphia Orchestra, offering student musicians from around the world the unique opportunity of spending one, two, or four weeks immersed in music education and performance training with members of the world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra, traditionally on the campus of Bryn Mawr College but this year online at VirtualMusicCamp.org.

Since March, PIMF's new platform PIMFOnline.org has been filling the training void for social-distancing music students with Master Classes taught by PIMF Artistic Director Kimberly Fisher, Principal Second Violin of The Philadelphia Orchestra; by Ricardo Morales, Principal Clarinet of The Philadelphia Orchestra; by Boris Allakverdyan, Principal Clarinet of the Los Angeles Philharmonic; as well as group and individual lessons and supervised online practice rooms taught and overseen by members of PIMF's world-class faculty.

For more information on PIMF, visit philadelphiamusicfestival.org, call (856) 875-6816, "like" the [Philadelphia International Music Camp & Festival](#) on Facebook, follow [@pimfmusiccamp](#) on Instagram and Twitter, and visit the [Philadelphia International Music Festival YouTube Channel](#) for performance videos from previous festival seasons.

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