

## Musical Mention

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When the Jarets kick started their young daughter's musical career, they never would have imagined she soon might be traveling to the White House to receive the Presidential Scholar in the Arts award.

But that is what Saline High School senior Andrea Jarrett may achieve come May for her violin playing, when the 20 winners from across the country are announced.

"I was three when my mom started me," Andrea said. "My brother was older and already playing piano, so she thought violin would be something fun for me to do. They never expected me to end up doing it my whole life and making it my career."

Andrea's 21-year-old brother is doing just fine in the music world, graduating from the University of Michigan's School of Music in composition this year. He wants to continue his composition studies in Paris next year.

Andrea is now on a similar path. She was recently selected from a pool of thousands to become one of 46 youngARTS semi-finalists, all of whom traveled to both Miami and New York City to participate in the youngARTS weeks.

The youngARTS program is an experience rewarded by nomination only by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. The NFAA is a division of the U.S. Department of Education and has given out more than \$80 million in college scholarships and awards.

Through a selective application process, NFAA identifies the nation's most talented high school seniors in the performing, literary and visual arts.

To get to Miami, Andrea recorded a 30-minute performance on a DVD that she submitted in October. She was selected in January, when 140 fellow artists traveled to attend the first youngARTS week. From there, the pool was reduced to 46 silver and gold medalists destined to continue their experiences in New York City.

"I found out in February that I was invited to New York," she said. "Once we got there, we had a solo performance and then they put each of us together in a group with artists in different disciplines."

Andrea's solo was the first movement of Beethoven's ninth sonata, which she played accompanied by a fellow student on the piano. But the solo was just the beginning of her New York experience.

The main idea was actually a collaboration with other artists. In their groups, which were focused around a writer's piece, the group members worked together to interpret the piece through music, dance and art, while the writer read aloud.

"That was the best part of the whole week," Andrea said. "We were improvising with this writer, and we were all nervous how it would come out and if it would be received well. But they came up to us after saying we did so well and worked well together. It made me appreciate music in a different way."

The experience was no doubt unique for all involved, and also a bit of a change from what artists of this caliber typically experience at this age.

"The best part about the youngARTS week was that it wasn't about competing or being the best," Andrea said. "They created this incredible atmosphere where all you want to do is share what you have with the people around you. I met people there who will be friends for the rest of my life. It was one of the best weeks I've ever had."

Several of Andrea's fellow musicians and artists from youngARTS will be close to her come fall. She plans to attend Julliard in New York to study violin and will be accompanied by several of her new friends.

Andrea was joined in New York by fellow semi-finalist Jordan Pemberton, who hails from Tecumseh, and was invited for his promise in the visual arts.

While in New York, the scholars received master classes with some of the world's most talented artists, received private tours of museums and studios, dined out with one another at many of the city's hotspots, and attended a Broadway showing of "Hair."

Now that she is back, Andrea has returned to her typical daily life. She is currently a member of the Saline Chamber Orchestra, and she travels to Chicago on Saturdays to attend the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy Program.

While in Chicago, Andrea studies at the college music school all day in different music classes, private lessons and chamber performances.

What Andrea has appreciated the most out of her experiences, however, are the guest stars she has been fortunate enough to meet.

"They invite very prominent musical artists to give us master classes and talk about what it's like to be a professional musician," she said.

"It's interesting to hear about the ones that aren't teachers, but actually performers because I think I'll go into performing rather than teaching. So, it's great to hear about what it's like, what you have to go through. They're always very open and down-to-earth and honest about what it takes to be in the field."

So far in her playing career, Andrea has won the 2008 Michigan ASTA Solo Competition, is a member of the Quartet Polaris, a gold medal winner of the 2008 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. She has performed as a soloist with the Toledo, Dearborn, Birmingham-Bloomfield, and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestras.

In the future, performance is the only requirement for Andrea. After that she doesn't mind, and would be happy working as a soloist, orchestra musician, or chamber musician.

"As long as my job requires playing the violin, I don't care what it is," she said. "As long as I get to do music, I'll be happy."

The final list of 20 finalists will be officially announced May 4. The winners will be honored at the White House in June and will show their artwork at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

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