

Gallia Kastner, First Prize Violin

2012 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players

At the age of 15, **Gallia Kastner** won **First Prize Violin** and \$10,000 in the **2012 Johansen International Competition (JIC) for Young String Players** (ages 13-17) in Washington, DC, in March 2012. Her appearance as a soloist performing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Gettysburg (PA) Chamber Orchestra in September 2012 is in conjunction with her Johansen Competition awards, as is her performance on the JIC Winners' Recital in Washington, DC, in November 2012.

Ms. Kastner is a merit scholarship student of The Susan and Richard Kiphart Academy Fellows. She studies with Almita and Roland Vamos at The Music Institute of Chicago. She commenced her private violin study at five and a half with Betty Haag-Kuhnke at The Betty Haag Academy of Music.

Ms. Kastner has won numerous competitions at national and international levels, both as a soloist and chamber musician. She won First Place at the 2012 Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra Competition in Chicago, and will solo with the SVSO in Fall 2012. She also won First Place Overall Open Division at the Walgreens National Concerto Competition; First place in the Senior Division of The Society of American Musicians; Sejong Cultural Society; Chinese Fine Arts Society; and District 214 Concerto Competition. She placed third in 2009 International Violin Competition in Schontal, Germany.

She has performed at the WFMT 98.7/Introductions, WTTW Channel 11, WGN, Ravinia Summer Festival, Today's Show appearance with Rachel Barton Pine, Millennium Park in Chicago, Lincoln Center in New York, and Kloster Schontal and Schwabish Hall Kultursiftung in Germany. She was the featured soloist with Highland Park Strings, Northshore Chamber Orchestra, Music in the Loft, Young Steinway Concert Series, and Midwest Young Artist Orchestra.

Ms. Kastner has been privileged to take master



classes with Rachel Barton Pine, Vadim Gluzman, Arkady Fomin, Joseph Silverstein, Ida Kavafian, Ivry Gitlis, Sherry Kloss, and Milan Vitek.

She is a 9th grader at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights, and participates in school orchestra and swim team. She also participates in the youth ministry at St James Parish, as choir member and instrumentalist.

Ms. Kastner performs on a copy of the "Ex-Soldat" Guarneri del Gesù, by Peter Seman, 2008, on generous loan from Rachel Elizabeth Barton Foundation. She was also selected to receive a Career Grant from The REB Foundation.