12 hours ago National winners: CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE, 2026



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The American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts, David (Volosin) Katz, founder and chief judge, is honored to announce NATIONAL winners, runners-up, citation recipient and honorable mentions of The American Prize in Chamber Music Performance, 2026. Congratulations! There are separate professional categories (and results) for winds, strings, and mixed ensembles, and an additional categories for college/university, high school and community ensembles. Questions, or to make us aware of any misprints in the listings below, please email: theamericanprize@gmail.com [mailto:theamericanprize@gmail.com]

The American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts is the nation's most comprehensive series of contests in the performing arts. The American Prize is unique in scope and structure, designed to recognize and reward the best performing artists, directors, ensembles and composers in the United States at professional, college/university, community and high school levels, based on submitted recordings. Now in its fifteenth year, The American Prize was founded in 2010 and is awarded annually in many areas of the performing arts. Thousands of artists from all fifty states have derived benefit from their participation in the contests of The American Prize, representing literally hundreds of communities and arts organizations across the nation.

Applications for the 2027 season of The American Prize open January 11 through April 20, 2027. (http://theamericanprize.org [http://theamericanprize.org]) The website will be updated later this fall.

Axiom Quartet
Houston TX

Black Moon Trio
Skokie IL

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Axiom Quartet
Houston TX



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Axiom Quartet

Entering its 12th season, Axiom Quartet brings composers' stories to life through music, conversation, and innovative, multi-disciplinary presentations. Often joined by scholars and cultural voices, Axiom delivers performances of artistic excellence and historical depth, embracing masterworks and underrepresented repertoire alike. Their concerts foster personal connection through engaging insights and rich storytelling. In the 2025–2026 season, Axiom presents *UNBROKEN: The Shostakovich Cycle 50 Years Later*, a seven-concert journey through all 15 of Shostakovich's quartets. Paired with global contemporaries, each program explores resilience, resistance, and the enduring power of music under oppression. With a commitment to accessibility and innovation, Axiom curates bold programming that makes intricate works meaningful for both new and seasoned listeners. Their flexible format allows them to connect with diverse audiences in both formal and community spaces. Axiom's performances are more than concerts—they are immersive experiences that reveal the power of chamber music to illuminate, challenge, and inspire. The individual members of Axiom are Matt Lammers - Violin, Timothy Peters - Violin, Katie Carrington - Viola, Patrick Moore - Cello. www.axoimquartet.com [http://www.axoimquartet.com/]

Black Moon Trio
Skokie IL



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Black Moon Trio

Black Moon Trio is a horn, violin, and piano ensemble devoted to the power of storytelling. We believe every performance is an opportunity to connect audiences through stories that resonate across generations and communities. By collaborating with living composers and artists, curating thoughtful and engaging programs, and delivering performances of the highest artistic caliber, we seek to expand the chamber music repertoire while creating meaningful, memorable, and transformative concert experiences. At the heart of Black Moon Trio's mission is the belief that classical music is for everyone. Through innovative performances, original commissions, and collaborations across artistic disciplines, they spotlight the work of composers of color, women composers, and others historically excluded from the classical canon. Their adventurous programming blends newly commissioned works with reimagined classics, interdisciplinary collaborations, and thought-provoking themes—crafting concerts that challenge traditional expectations while fostering a sense of inclusivity and discovery. Recent commissions include works by award-winning composers Jeff Scott, Stacy Garrop, and Gala Flagello. In addition to their own productions, Black Moon Trio has curated concert experiences for Connecticut Summerfest and the Ravinia Festival, expanding access to chamber music through immersive, community-informed programming.

2nd Place:
Apple Lin and Jose Ottonello, cellist
Hattiesburg MS



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Apple Lin and Jose Ottonello

Born in Shanghai, China, Yin was the piano accompanist and choir member in Shanghai XingZhi Girl's Choir. In 2001 summer, Yin participated the 17th Spain International Music Festival in Barcelona as piano accompanist and choir member with Shanghai XingZhi Girl's Choir. During the festival, Yin also was selected to perform the Chinese piece "Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake" as a solo pianist in the welcome banquet in Chinese Embassy in Spain. In later 2001, she performed as a choir member with her choir in APEC in Shanghai. In 2004, Yin won the Second Prize of "the 3rd Zhu Jiang Piano Cup" National Piano competition. In 2006-2009, Yin continuously studied under Professor ZheBang Xie in Shanghai Normal University School of Music for her master's degree in Piano Performance. In 2006, she won the sixth prize of Shanghai International Accordion Chamber Competition. From1999-2017, Yin also collaborated with numerous vocalists for their competitions and recitals in Shanghai. In 2017, Yin decided to go to USA to study collaborative piano. As a collaborative pianist, Yin has collaborated with a lot of talented musicians for their recitals in LA. In 2020 summer, she played virtually in the internationally acclaimed operatic soprano Lisette Oropesa's vocal master class. She is also the staff accompanist of Women Ensemble at Mayfield Senior School, and the University of Redlands. She was also selected to play in Roomful of Pianos- A Lounge 88 Concert Event in 2019 NAMM show. In 2021, she was invited to be the piano coach in Worldful of Piano in 2021 NAMM Show. As an active chamber musician, Yin is a member of her University's chamber program. In the Fall of 2018, Yin was selected to participate in the chamber music masterclass with Dr. Alan Smith, director of keyboard studies at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music at Azusa Pacific University. In the Fall 2019, she was selected to participate in the chamber music masterclass with Glenn Dictrow, the former concertmaster of NY Phil. Yin also participated the Emerald Chamber Music Festival in Florida in the summer of 2021.

3rd Place:
I Musici Gemelli
Foggia Italy



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I Musici Gemelli

The members of the group are Francesco Pio Bertozzi and Giuseppe Pio Bertozzi, both born on September 1, 2000. Francesco and Giuseppe graduated with top marks in violin at the Umberto Giordano Conservatory in Foggia and then they completed a second Master's degree in Chamber Music at the Conservatory of Parma. They held masterclasses and advanced courses in duo formation with: Ilya Grubert, Andrés Diaz, Laura Marzadori, Kathrin Ten Hagen, Mirjam Tschopp, Marco Fiorini, Mirò String Quartet and the baroque music group Il Rossignolo. The duo has been awarded prizes in national and international competitions such as: Euterpe International Music Competition (BA), Umberto Giordano National Music Competition (FG), Trofeo città di Giulianova National Music Competition (TE), Concorso Internazionale di Musica Leopoldo Mugnone (Caserta), and the Messina National Chamber Music Competition (held in Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto). Both have performed in theatres such as: Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (Florence), Teatro Greco (Ischia, Walton foundation), Teatro Verdi (Brindisi), Teatro Apollo (Lecce), Teatro Comunale Alaleona (Montegiorgio), Teatro Garibaldi (Lucera), Teatro Comunale Corato, Anfiteatro Romano, Palazzo Reale (Napoli), Accademia Gherardeschi (Pistoia), Auditorium del Carmine (Parma), and others. They have participated in national and international festivals namely: Julich Music Festival (Germany), Festival Ritratti, Urti Canti, Musicalis Daunia, Pistoia Musica Antica, etc. The duo is also active in musicological research; their studies have been discussed and broadcast on Rai Radio 3 and are listed in the OPAC SBN catalog (National Central Library of Florence).