

Notable Composium



Once a year, budding teenage composers from all over the country compete to come to Orlando for the chance of a lifetime: to hear their own compositions professionally played and recorded at the annual National Young Composer's Challenge Composium.

“What it really amounts to is a dragnet for talent,” says the Composium’s inventor, Winter Park philanthropist Steve Goldman, who was once a young composer himself.

There were 214 submissions and eight winners—three who wrote for full orchestra; five who composed for a chamber orchestra. That’s two more winners than usual, says Goldman, because of both quality and quantity this year, when twice as many students entered than ever before.

All of the winners were awarded an honorarium and were invited to come to Orlando, where an orchestra consisting mainly of Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra musicians will rehearse and perform each of their compositions before an audience.

“It’s a fantastic experience,” says Thomas Feng, a former winner who is now studying composition at UCLA. “I learned something. And so did the audience.”

This year’s ninth annual Composium will be held for the first time at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on Oct. 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. It is free and open to the public. —Mike Mcleod **oam**