



# CHICAGO VIOLIN COMPETITION

chicagoviolincompetition.org

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## Jesus Linarez & Kento Hong WIN the 2021 Chicago Violin Competition

The Chicago Violin Competition is proud to Announce the Winners and Laureates for the 2021 CVC Competition... **Jesus Linarez (age 22) from Venezuela (Senior Artist) and Kento Hong (age 15) from USA (Young Artist) have Won this years' Competition.**

After over three weeks of deliberations by the CVC acclaimed international jury, 68 Young Artist (ages 7-17) and 35 Senior Artist (ages 18-28) contestants from over 20 countries competed to be awarded winners of the Chicago Violin Competition. Having such a talented pool of contestants for both Divisions, coming to a decision and awarding winners was a tall order, but we are excited to announce that **Jesus Linarez (age 22) from Venezuela** in the Senior Artist and **Kento Hong (age 15) from USA** in the Young Artist have Won the 2021 Chicago Violin Competition.

**Senior Artist - Tianyou Ma (20) of China** was awarded second prize and **Alexander Hobbs (24) from USA** was awarded third prize. **Young Artist – Luke Pisani (16) of USA** was awarded second prize and **Mio Imai (11) from USA** was awarded third prize. Also, 3 Laureate were awarded in the Senior Artist and 5 Laureates were chosen in the Young Artist.

Over 130 applications were received from all over the world for the 2021 CVC Competition, with the final candidates representing Venezuela, USA, China, South Korea, and Philippians proving the truly global nature of the Competition.

As the winners of the Chicago Violin Competition, **Jesus Linarez & Kento Hong** will receive a cash prize of **USD \$1,000 and \$600** respectfully.

**Jesus Linarez, said on how he felt after winning the CVC Senior Artist:**

*"It was a great experience to play in this year's CVC! I thought the standard of playing was very high, so I am very excited to be the winner!"*

**Kento Hong, said on how he felt after winning the CVC Young Artist:**



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*"I am honored to be chosen as the Junior Prize Winner for 2021. Winning the Chicago Violin Competition – Young Artist was a humbling and exciting experience. I appreciate that under very difficult times during the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee gave us all the opportunity to compete virtually. I hope that my music has a positive impact on others."*

**Chair of the Jury, Robert Simonds on conclusion of the Competition said:**

*"This year's CVC judges heard tremendous talent from all over the world and it was an absolute joy to listen to these promising young artists. Congratulations to all the performers who competed and played so beautifully. We look forward to hearing your future performances."*

The Chicago Violin Competition is an international competition held virtually online. This year, contestants from over 20 countries submitted videos to be judged by an acclaimed international jury. CVC was launched in 2008 as the AMI Violin Competition and in 2021, the competition was renamed the Chicago Violin Competition to include the international community. This year's international level serves as a testament and showcase for aspiring professional violinists from around the world. CVC is hosted by the American Music Institute in Chicago... [www.amimusic.org](http://www.amimusic.org) / [www.chicagoviolincompetition.com](http://www.chicagoviolincompetition.com).

**Official Prizes – Senior Artist**

First Prize:	USD \$1,000	<b>Jesus Linarez – age 22 (Venezuela)</b>
Second Prize:	USD \$500	<b>Tianyou Ma – age 20 (China)</b>
Third Prize:	USD \$150	<b>Alexander Hobbs – age 24 (USA)</b>
Laureates:		<b>Minchae Kim (South Korea), Clara Kim (USA), Evin Blomberg (USA)</b>

**Official Prizes – Young Artist**

First Prize:	USD \$600	<b>Kento Hong – age 15 (USA)</b>
Second Prize:	USD \$300	<b>Luke Pisani – age 16 (USA)</b>
Third Prize:	USD \$150	<b>Mio Imai – age 11 (USA)</b>
Laureates:		<b>Cooper Olson (USA), Lilly Sullivan (USA), Lauren Kim (USA), Michelle Bushkova (USA), Emanuel Villarin (Philippines)</b>

For more media information, please contact:

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Chicago Violin Competition @ American Music Institute

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## CVC SENIOR ARTIST – WINNERS & LAUREATES



CVC Senior Artist 2021 - 1st Prize  
Jesus Linarez (Venezuela)



CVC Senior Artist 2021 - 2nd Prize  
Tianyou Ma (China)



CVC Senior Artist 2021 - 2nd Prize  
Alexander Hobbs (USA)



CVC Senior Artist 2021 - Laureate  
Minchae Kim (South Korea)



CVC Senior Artist 2021 - Laureate  
Clara Kim (USA)



CVC Senior Artist 2021 - Laureate  
Evin Blomberg (USA)





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## CVC YOUNG ARTIST – WINNERS & LAUREATES



CVC Young Artist 2021 - 1st Prize  
Kento Hong (USA)



CVC Young Artist 2021 - 2nd Prize  
Luke Pisani (USA)



CVC Young Artist 2021 - 3rd Prize  
Mio Imai (USA)



CVC Young Artist 2021 - Laureate  
Cooper Olsen (USA)



CVC Young Artist 2021 - Laureate  
Lily Sullivan (USA)



CVC Young Artist 2021 - Laureate  
Lauren Kim (USA)



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