

Level I - First Place Winner

William Masters

William Masters (b. 2005) grew up near Sacramento, California. William's musical journey began at age ten when he started playing the cello. He has now been playing for six years and has participated in numerous events with different orchestras and venues in the Sacramento area. The Sacramento Youth Symphony (SYS) has been one of William's mainstays for musical education, serving as principal cellist for their Classic and Academic orchestra ensembles and was winner of the 2018 Sacramento Youth Symphony Academic Concerto Competition. He now performs with the SYS Premier Orchestra, an internationally award-winning youth ensemble.

He began composition in 2017 as a hobby, inspired by a John Williams CD, but in 2020 he began taking composition lessons with the composer Isaac Smith. His first full-length composition, String Quartet No. 1 "The Journey", was performed by the faculty of the 2021 SYS Summer Chamber Music Workshop a total of three times and he has been invited to return with another work for the following year. William loves dogs (especially his own Labrador Sam) and his hobbies include reading (fantasy and mystery novels in particular), writing, and dabbling interests in baking and surfing. William plans to pursue music at the collegiate level.

