

NICOLE LI, violinist

Canadian violinist Nicole Li began her violin studies at the age of three and ever since, she has been successively gaining recognition and awards. She is a two-time winner of the Grand Prize at the Canadian Music Competition national finals, where she won first place in her age category seven times. Nicole is a two-time silver medalist and received First Class Honours with Distinction in her graduating year as Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto (ARCT). She was concertmaster of the Academy Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra (TSYO), of which she was the youngest member to join at ten years old. She was the soloist with TSYO on their 2012 tour and has performed solo with orchestras including the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, Sherbrooke Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Sinfonietta, Oakville Chamber Orchestra, Brampton Symphony Orchestra, and with the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra at their season's opening concert. Nicole appeared as the featured soloist at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, at the 6th Global Forum on Human Settlements.

Nicole is currently a second-year medical student at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine. She is an alumna of the University of Toronto Schools and the University of Western Ontario, where she was a physiology student on the Dean's Honour List. She was also an athlete on the varsity fencing team where she received the OUA Academic Achievement Award, and a music minor student in performance where she was concertmaster of the UWO Symphony Orchestra. In 2013, Nicole won the faculty-wide Maritsa Brookes Concerto Competition. She has received recognition from both science and music faculties, being one of one of fifteen students to receive the award for highest academic standing in the Faculty of Science, and winning the Wendy S. Hunter Memorial Award for humanitarian, musical, and academic distinction. In 2013, Nicole co-founded the University Science Case Competition, a provincial and university-wide competition for first- and second-year students, promoting innovation and creativity in scientific thought.

Nicole has devoted her past eight summers participating in various local and international community service initiatives in Peru, Thailand, Cambodia, and El Salvador, where she has raised human preventive healthcare, awareness, and provided medical assistance. She also presented her hematological and gastrointestinal research findings at four international symposia. She attended the 2013 St. Lawrence String Quartet Chamber Music Festival at Stanford University on a full scholarship.

Nicole is currently a first violinist in the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, and was a regular guest musician of Orchestra London of Canada. She has engaged in masterclasses with internationally renowned artists, including Leonidas Kavakos, Yo-Yo Ma, and James Ehnes. She is extremely grateful for her teachers and mentors Mel Martin, Alain Trudel, Atis Bankas, and Jonathan Crow.