

Artist of the Year: Semifinalists for instrumental music

By **HEIDE JANSSEN** | Orange County Register

April 1, 2018 at 7:37 am

From a list of 81 nominees, the following 15 students have been named as semifinalists for the 2018 Artist of the Year in instrumental music. The students were chosen by a panel of teachers based on written statements, performance videos and artistic résumés.

Included are links to their work, the specialty in which they were nominated, and quotes about how they relate to their craft.

Instrumental musicians have been nominated in the specialties of piano and strings, winds and percussion, jazz music, commercial music, and world/cultural music.

During the final round of adjudication, students are interviewed by a panel of distinguished artistic professionals and faculty members from Southern California universities as well as a few representative high school teachers. Interviews include a live presentation by the students followed by a question-and-answer-session.

One finalist in each specialty will be named and from those finalists, one Artist of the Year in each of the seven disciplines – theater, dance, instrumental music, vocal music, film, 2D visual art and 3D visual art – will be chosen.

The 2018 Artists of the Year will be announced on April 22.

The Artist of the Year program is presented in partnership with the Register, Orange County Music and Dance, and the Orange County Department of Education.

Support from the partners as well as Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the Angels Baseball Foundation, and Allied Medical will help to provide cash awards for the students and their schools' arts programs. If you would like to support the Artist of the Year program, contact Heide Janssen at heide@ocmusicdance.org

**Danielle Liu, senior,
Crean Lutheran High School**

Specialty: piano and strings

Instrument: violin



"Touching lives through my music is a wonderful gift, but sharing this gift with musicians younger than me is even more special, and I hope to continue to do so for years to come."