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### Harmony Zhu, piano

Hailed as “a deeply musical soul and nimble technician [with] probing sensitivity” (*Chicago Tribune*), having “airtight technique [and] coruscating brilliance” (*Chicago Classical Review*), and “an impressive soloist, a sparkling and happy presence... unflappable” (*Times Union*), 17-year-old pianist and composer **Harmony Zhu** won the 2021 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, becoming the youngest artist on the YCA roster. Recognized as a Young Steinway Artist since age 10, Harmony has appeared as soloist with esteemed orchestras worldwide, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, and more, under renowned conductors such as Leonard Slatkin, Marin Alsop, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Harmony has performed at prestigious festivals such as the Ravinia Festival and Aspen Music Festival, and made her debut at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium at age 14. She has also been featured on NBC's *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, NPR's *From the Top*, CBS, and ABC, with her musical maturity, charisma, and upbeat personality captivating audiences wherever she performs.

Harmony jumped in at 24-hour notice last season at age 16 for the late maestro Alexander Toradze, performing Prokofiev Concerto No. 3 with the Illinois Philharmonic to great acclaim, praised by the *Chicago Classical Review* as having the “stellar technique and musical insight to have a major professional career”.

With a deep musical sensitivity beyond her years, Harmony's extraordinary achievements and promising career have earned her acclaim from critics and musicians alike, positioning her as a rising star in the world of classical music. Studying at the Juilliard School since age eight with Emanuel Ax and Veda Kaplinsky, Harmony is also a versatile composer and an accomplished improviser. She attends the prestigious Brearley School in NYC. In the realm of chess, she holds the title of World Champion of her age group after winning the World Youth Chess Championships.