

Meet the Musicians



Halle Adams is a twelve year old sixth grader at Fayetteville Academy. She enjoys playing the violin and the piano. She has taken private violin lessons for 6 years and has played with the Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra for one year. Halle also enjoys participating in the theatre and has been involved in eight productions. Halle currently lives in Benson, NC with her parents, Michael and Dina Adams



Jacob Thiriot is finishing up 7th grade at Max Abbott Middle School. He began playing the violin when he was 4 and loves the challenge of learning new music. He enjoys participating in a variety of sports.



Edison Dill is a 7th grade student at Max Abbott Middle School. His interests are Cello and reading. He does enjoy video games and basketball in his free time.



Nakyung (Olivia) Lee started violin when she was 6 years old. She began at Indiana University (IU) String Academy, which is directed by Mimi Zweig. At IU String Academy, Olivia had extensive stage experiences. Eventually, she came to Duke University String School (DUSS), becoming the winner of the DUSS Concerto Competition in 2019. Also, she is the first prize winner at the 2021 Charleston International Music Competition. Her current teacher is Ms. Erica Shirts. Olivia loves violin very much and continues to play it. She feels honored to play at the Salute to Youth concert held by Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra



A Fayetteville, North Carolina native, Jaine (age 7) began playing the violin soon after her 4th birthday. With her older siblings playing strings, Jaine naturally joined the journey. Her family describes her as playful and joyful even while practicing. She is a second grader at New Century International Elementary School and is in the Chinese Language and Culture Immersion program there. The memorable journey began with violin instructor, Steve Kamradt. One year after beginning her formal musical journey, Jaine joined Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra's Sinfonietta where she is still happily participating today.



Lydia Herden began playing the violin at age 8 when her family was stationed in Hawaii and has been learning for almost 5 years. She also enjoys dance and writing.



Hello all! My name is Emmy, always in search of the delight in playing things right~
But further than that, I'm hoping to convey the feel of music's story to you, and myself.

Thank you for this chance to do that ♡



David Nahm Kim is best known for his outdoor viola concerts at school. In the pre-COVID-19 era, other students listened to him performing concertos on their walks to the cafeteria. Now, David regularly records his performances to be shared online. It is no secret that he is adamant about increasing involvement in the fine arts program at his school. Born in the Piedmont region, David finds great inspiration from the symphonies in North Carolina. In a hectic city like Raleigh, he aspires to deliver music that inspires people to be mindful. David has carried this aspiration with him throughout his musical career spanning nine years. Currently, he is a member of Triangle Youth Philharmonic and the Releve Piano Quartet.



Alexander McDowell began studying the violin at the age of 5. He currently studies with his mentor Jennifer Curtis, violin teacher Shelley Livingston, and his composition teacher Julie Harris. He participates in the Duke University String School Youth Symphony, the Mallarme Youth Chamber Orchestra program at UNC, Triangle Youth Philharmonic, North Carolina Chamber Institute, his church orchestra, and plays music at local senior centers. Alexander first debuted one of his own works at the age of 10. "Dark Woods" premiered in September 2017 as part of the Arts NOW series at North Carolina State University, where it was played by Jennifer Curtis as part of a new music concert in NCSU's Thompson Theater. In spring 2019, Alexander performed Vivaldi's Winter as a guest artist with the Bach Festival Ensemble. In fall 2019 Alexander won both the Duke University String School Concerto Competition and the Peter Perret Youth Talent Search in Winston Salem, NC with his rendition of Barber Violin Concerto, Opus 14, First Movement, which he then performed with the Winston Salem Symphony and the Duke Youth Symphony in 2020.



Cassidy Reibestein has been playing the trumpet since 6th grade. A freshman now, she plays with the Terry Sanford High School Band, the Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra ensembles, as well as privately studies under Dr. Larry Wells. Cassidy was selected for All-County, All-District, and All-State honors this year. An Army brat, Cassidy is the daughter of Jeff and April Reibestein.



Madalyn Thiriot began playing the violin when she was 5. She is currently a Sophomore at Terry Sanford High School where she also plays clarinet and front ensemble in the band, runs cross country, and plays Lacrosse.