



William Tan

“William is extraordinary. His musicality, expressiveness, purity and poise are remarkable...a major talent with a huge future.”

Mitchell Sardou Klein, Artistic Director of the Klein International String Competition and Conductor of the Peninsula Symphony

Award winning seventeen-year-old Cellist William Tan began playing at the age of 4 with Sally Gross of the Western Springs School of Talent and Education. He has been a student of Hans Jorgen Jensen, Professor of Cello at Northwestern’s Bienen School of Music since the age of 9. Additional influential teachers and collaborative artists include Sihao He, Sooka Wang, and Liang-yu Wang.

William has been a featured soloist with numerous orchestras including performances of the Dvorak Cello Concerto in B Minor with the Camerata Orchestra of New Jersey and the Lakeview Orchestra and Elgar’s Cello Concerto in E Minor with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago and the Kishwaukee Symphony. He has earned top prizes in numerous international competitions. Recently, William received Third Prize at the 2021 Klein International String Competition in San Francisco and was also awarded the Weiss Prize for Best Performance of the Commissioned Work. Other recent competition wins include Gold Prize at the 2021 Camerata Artists International Competition in New York and First Place at the 2020 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) National String Competition.

In November 2021, the Strad published an article William wrote on honing performance skills in a post-pandemic world. Following a series of interviews with 20 world renowned cellists including among others Gautier Capuçon, Alban Gerhardt, and Johannes Moser, William created The Performance Project, a resource for aspiring musicians on mastering the art of musical performance. He continues to interview world class musicians, including an upcoming interview with Sheku Kanneh-Mason, for the purpose of sharing their advice on connecting with audiences at the highest level.

William has also been a featured guest on From the Top, an NPR distributed national program which showcases the nation’s best young classical musicians. During summers, he has attended the Orford Music Academy, Music@Menlo, and the Meadowmount School of Music. A junior at the University of Chicago Laboratory School, William is an assistant editor of the U-High Midway, a varsity debater, competitive chess player, and an avid skier.