

ASTA/NJ SOLO STRING COMPETITION



Biography: Enrique Rodrigues

Nine year old, Enrique Rodrigues is a 4th Grade student at the Warren Point Elementary School in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. In 2006, just months before his 4th birthday and with no training in Music, his parents noticed him replicating on a toy organ the music piece that his older sister was playing on the Piano. A few months later, Enrique's parents introduced him to the Violin and in a very short time he developed an immensely special bond with the Instrument. He would spend much of his time, playing on it and exploring its possibilities.

At the age of 6, Enrique enrolled into the Bergen Junior Strings Orchestra under the baton of conductor, Joseph Dubbiosi. The following year he joined the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and in 2010 at the age of 8, he was accepted in the Bergen Symphony Orchestra under the baton of conductor, Eugene Minor. Enrique is currently performing with the Bravura Youth Orchestra under the baton of Ms. Chiu-Tze Lin.

One of the major highlights of this year was that Enrique was able to accomplish his dream of meeting American virtuoso violinist, Joshua Bell at the Avery Fisher Hall. Mr. Bell had seen some of Enrique's videos and was impressed by his playing and encouraged him to work hard in order to pursue his dream, of one day becoming a famous violinist.

In 2010, as Enrique's standard of playing matured he was introduced to his current teacher, Ms. Duoming Ba who is a member of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Under the tutelage of his Teacher, Enrique has blossomed as a Musician and has performed with distinction and won several awards at various competitions.

Enrique's achievements in the year 2011 are listed below:

- Winner at the ASTA/NJ Solo Competition – Early Bird Division
- Gold Medal Winner at the NJ/MTA - Young Musician's Competition

- Gold Medal Winner at the Golden Key Music Festival – performed at Carnegie, Weil Recital Hall
 - Gold Medal Winner at the Prima International Competition – performed @ The Merkin Concert Hall
 - Grand Prize Winner at the Music Fest Competition – performed @ Carnegie – Weil Recital Hall
 - Grand Prize Winner for Solo & Grand Prize for Duet at the Sounds of Music Festival – performed @ The Watchung Centre of Performing Arts
 - Bronze Medal Winner at the Bravura Concerto Competition
- note: Enrique was accompanied on the piano, at all of the above competitions by Ms. Rimma Altshul.

Enrique, has a very special place in his heart for “Senior Citizens” and is committed in giving back to the community. Over the last couple of years, Enrique and his sister have brought much joy and touched the lives of many of the residents at various Assisted Living Centers, The Veteran’s Homes, Rehabilitation Centers and Day Care Centers in the State of New Jersey. Their joy was complete when they received a letter from the Director of Volunteer Services at the Paramus Veteran’s Home stating,

“ On behalf of our veterans at the New Jersey Home we would like to thank you, for your most enjoyable performance. Our veterans were most impressed and entertained by your talent and appreciative of your thoughtfulness in remembering them. We are most grateful to you, for helping to enhance the quality of life of our veterans and count on your continued support “.