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## Heritage Oak Student Takes Top Honors at Southwestern Youth Music Festival

Heritage Oak fourth grade student Danielle Liu recently won first place in the Southwestern Youth Music Festival in violin in the 9 year-old category, playing "The Boy Paganini". She also auditioned and made it into the Chamber Strings Orchestra for Prelude Strings. She is one of the youngest players in the chamber orchestra.

The Southwestern Youth Music Festival is a music competition that is offered once a year and runs two weekends (five days) in the summer, usually the last weekend of July and first weekend of August. There are categories for piano, strings (violin, viola and cello) and winds (flute, clarinet). Hundreds of music students participate in this competition each year. The competition is broken down so that students compete within small groups representative of their age group and skill level. Danielle was competing within her age group of students who have had 3 or more years of training. Her teacher, Eunhee Kim, a graduate of U.S.C., worked with her on the song for over 6 months.

To listen to a sample of Danielle's playing, the reader can go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in "Danielle Liu Fantasy". Danielle performed this Earth, Wind and Fire piece at Heritage Oak's Variety Show last year.

In addition to violin, Danielle takes private piano lessons through Heritage Oak under Mrs. Rima Antonios. In May of this year, she mastered and memorized 15 piano pieces for the National Piano Guild Auditions at the international level. She earned 25 C's and 0 A's for her performance, C stands for special "Commendation" and A stands for "needs attention". Danielle also enjoys singing and acting on stage in her school and church musicals.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nation's most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.