

Nikki Chooi, Violin

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Born in 1989 in Victoria, British Columbia, Nikki Chooi, is enrolled at Curtis Institute of Music, studying with violinists Joseph Silverstein and Ida Kavafian. He has studied with Bill van der Sloot at the Mount Royal University in Calgary, and Sydney Humphreys at the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

Nikki is the 1st prize winner of the 2009 Irving M.Klein International String Competition in San Francisco, and was awarded the “Special Prize” at the XIII Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition in 2007 in Moscow, Russia. He is also the 1st prizewinner of the 2007 Shean Strings Competition, 1st prizewinner of the 2004 Montreal Symphony Standard Life Competition, and the Grand Award winner of the 2004 Canadian National Music Festival.

In 2009, Nikki was part of the Curtis On Tour ensemble along with violist, Roberto Diaz and pianist, Robert MacDonald. He has performed in the Vancouver Recital Series, Debut Atlantic Recital Tour, Canadian National Arts Debut Series, and Chamber Music Tulsa.

He has been guest soloist with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Victoria Symphony Orchestra, the Sinfonia Toronto, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Artists whom he has collaborated in performance include: Shmuel Ashkenasi, Ida Kavafian, Peter Wiley, Steve Tenenbom, Richard Roberts, Lara St.John, Roberto Diaz, Laurence Lesser, Robert MacDonald, Sean Osborne, and Alex Fiterstein.

He has attended the National Arts Centre Young Artist Program, the Juilliard School’s Starling-Delay Symposium, the Morningside Music Bridge, the Orford Academy of the Arts, and the Sarasota Music Festival. He has been an artist at the Ravinia Festival, Music from AngelFire, Music in the Vineyards, and the Eine Kleine Summer Chamber Music. In summer of 2011, Nikki will make his first appearance at the Marlboro Music Festival.

Nikki plays on the 1729 Guaneri del Gesu on generous loan from the Canada Council of the Arts Instrument Bank.