



Esme Arias-Kim is a 14-year-old Merit Scholarship Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy, a training center for advanced pre-college students where she studies violin. She made her solo orchestral debut at the age of 10 with Oistrakh Symphony and was featured on Chicago's classical radio station WFMT's "Introductions." Her solo performances have taken her across the United States and throughout

Germany and Portugal. Esme is a first place winner in numerous competitions and most recently received Grand Prize in the junior division of the 23rd Annual Sphinx Competition (2020). She will also participate as one of four finalists in The Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition for a chance to solo with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Outside of playing the violin, Esme enjoys drawing, performing magic, playing piano, running, Star Wars and spending time with her sister, Claire.

Fun Facts

- 1) Esme creates drawings as an aid to learning and working her way through new pieces of music. (Two of these drawings are pictured below.)
- 2) Her favorite piece is Beethoven's Violin Concerto.
- 3) In summer 2018, Esme competed in Il Piccolo Violino Magico International Competition in Italy as the only American of 16 finalists.
- 4) Her most meaningful musical experience was performing the first movement of Sibelius' Violin Concerto with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in March 2020.

5) She plays violin in the performing group, *Trio Primavera*, along with her friends who play piano and cello. The group represents cultural diversity in music, blending Korean, Chilean, Colombian, and Russian styles.

