

Dear Hermione So,

Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that you are awarded **First Place with Special Honours and Distinction** at the Red Maple Strings Competition, Junior Category, 13 - 14 years old, for Lori Pappajohn, Girl in the Red Skirt.

Here are the comments from our judges:

Dear Hermione, what a pleasure to hear you play! Thank you for putting in all the hours to learn to make music so beautifully. Your phrase-making is very captivating, and your evident feeling for the music helps me feel it as you play. Great job and very engaging performance! You have a strong sense of rhythm and natural musicality. You feel the style of music with its unique dance-like character and charm. Form is clear and easy to follow, the technique is solid. I like the transitions between sections as well. Perhaps a next thing to work on with your teacher is exploring even more nuance in this musical genre, color, and musical depth. Give yourself permission to take more expressive risks, it will move your performance to the next level of artistic freedom. It was exciting to listen to your performance, and it is clear that you enjoy performing this composition so much! Keep up the good work.

Please find your Certificate on the website. If you indicated that you have a teacher and/or an accompanist, their Certificates are also on the website. For your convenience all certificates are in PDF for printing and JPG for posting on social media. Please download the certificates within next two months.

We are thrilled to invite you to the Award Ceremony that will be held in Toronto, Canada in Summer, 2026.

We will send more details regarding the registration, the exact dates, and the venue later. Please, always check your spam/junk email folder to do not miss any important information.

Please register for the Award Ceremony at the following link by June 13th, 2026: <https://www.pulsar-music.com/award-ceremony>

Payments after the deadline will not be accepted due to the high volume of participants. Please note that the recital registration fees are not refundable and can not be substituted.

Details: The Registration Fee includes admission to the hall, one set of a trophy, a certificate, and a teacher's diploma, four complimentary tickets for family members to enter the recital hall, and a set of digital photos taken by a professional photographer during the Award Ceremony on the stage. You will be invited to the stage to receive your trophy and certificates, and your name will be printed in the event brochure. Please note that you will not be playing on the stage.

In addition, Pulsar Music is happy to invite all Award Ceremony participants, their teachers, and family members to join us at other social events after the ceremony date, such as a trip to Niagara Falls and the Toronto Aquarium.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ekaterina Paniukova, CEO of Pulsar Music

Red Maple Music Competition
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