

Dear Barry Wu,

Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that you are awarded **Second Place with Special Honours and Distinction** at the Rocky Mountain Strings Competition, Young Musicians Category, 9 - 10 years old, for Antonio Lucio Vivaldi, Summer from the Four Seasons, Third movement.

Here are the comments from our judges:

You are clearly a talented and promising young violinist. Your playing already reflects real determination and musical drive, and your intonation is quite solid—there's a good foundation here that will support your progress as the repertoire becomes more demanding. The next big step is to refine your right-hand and bow-arm work, because in this piece the bow stroke is the main task and challenge, and it will shape both the clarity and character of the music. Focus on keeping the right shoulder and elbow lower all the time, at the moment both are raised very high. Aim to develop more flexibility in the hand as well. In particular, let the wrist take an active role, because it is what helps the stroke feel easy, controlled, and connected. I recommend starting with simple open-string bowing just to build a solid and consistent habit. Also, you can take a simple piece for this kind of exercising, such as Kreutzer Étude No. 1, and use one note per bow for the same approach. Start slowly and let it be your training ground for an even sound, relaxed alignment, and a consistent bow path. This will be mostly an exercising to build the consistency that you can apply on any more advanced pieces. During such practice, make sure the right shoulder stays down, and allow the wrist to come back to its neutral position as you return to the frog. Keep your fingers always rounded on the bow so the hand stays responsive rather than stiff. As you play, think of the right arm "opening" smoothly without the shoulder needing to participate—this encourages a natural motion and helps the hand stay supple. For the specific articulation in this piece, begin with simple détaché in the middle of the bow and pay special attention to how the bow changes connect: let the wrist guide the change of direction so the strokes join smoothly. As this becomes reliable and easy, increase the tempo little by little, keeping the same relaxed posture and clean connection throughout. Thank you again for sharing your performance. 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 inform you that you are invited to perform at the Winners' Recital and the Award Ceremony that will be held at St. Andrew's Church at 73 Simcoe St., Toronto, Canada, on July 11th, 2026 (Saturday).

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 recital at the following link by February 5th, 2026:

<https://www.pulsar-music.com/recitals>

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.

Please find your performance information below:

1. Antonio Lucio Vivaldi, Summer from the Four Seasons, Third movement (3minutes04seconds) will be listed in the recital program as your performance repertoire. If you need to change your piece please contact us at info@pulsar-music.com no later than one month prior the event date. The repertoire change is available for an extra fee and the duration of the new piece must be no longer than the original piece duration.
2. If you need an official invitation letter from the Competition to apply for the visa, you may provide this letter.
3. The competition does not provide a piano accompanist. If you bring your own accompanist, please, send us the name of your accompanist, so we can add him/her to our backstage security list. If you need a local piano accompanist, please let us know. However, it will be your responsibility to contact the accompanist and make all the arrangements. If your accompanist doesn't show up for the performance, you will not be allowed onto the stage.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Toronto! In addition, Pulsar Music is happy to invite all Winners' Recital and Award Ceremony participants, their teachers, and family members to join us at other social events after the recital date, such as a trip to Niagara Falls and the Toronto Aquarium.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ekaterina Paniukova, CEO of Pulsar Music

Rocky Mountain Music Competition
Website: <https://www.pulsar-music.com/>
Email: info@pulsar-music.com

Rocky Mountain Music Competition is a service offered by Pulsar Music Inc., Ontario, Canada. All rights reserved, 2019-.