

Joshua Brown

joshuabrownviolinist.com

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Biographical Overview:

Possessing a rare combination of musical instinct and a unique voice, Joshua Brown has found success in performances and competitions worldwide. He was first recognized for his debut performance with the Cleveland Orchestra at the age of fifteen, for which he received glowing reviews from critics: "Had he played from behind a curtain, you wouldn't have believed that Joshua Brown...was only 15," wrote clevelandclassical.com. "His interpretation of Dmitri Shostakovich's first violin concerto was so maturely wrought that it might have come from a seasoned professional. Brilliantly played and expertly paced, Brown's performance checked into every emotional corner of [the] work ... Brown was spellbinding throughout his entire time on stage."

Following that debut, Joshua has gone on to perform regularly with orchestras in the United States and Europe (including the Munich Radio Orchestra, the Chicago Civic Orchestra, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, and Rockford Symphony Orchestra, among many others) and has continually garnered praise from critics (Chicago Classical Review: "...his lithe playing betrays a musical maturity beyond his 17 years.....the young man played with great poise and a silken tone.....and is clearly someone to watch in years to come;," The News-Gazette: "The highlight of the evening was young Joshua Brown's solo playing in Antonio Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons.' Brown is clearly a young performer of considerable promise. His sparkling playing in the Vivaldi gave renewed joy to this often heard composition." The Augsburg-Allgemeine: "With finely cut tone, ... [Brown] scored with meticulous articulation, lively dynamics and an understanding of the rhetoric of this music.... Brown ... renounced superficial sound enrichment and preferred to rely on narrative statement, even in the large, technically excellently mastered cadenza of the first movement." Feuilleton Regional: "His brilliant portrayal [in the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto], with its lyrical colors and virtuoso drive, radiated refinement [and] the Kongress Hall [audience] celebrated with standing ovations.")

Joshua has performed at concert halls on three continents, including the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, both Carnegie Hall and Merkin Hall in New York City, Severance Hall in Cleveland, Ohio, Symphony Center in Chicago, Arnold Katz State Concert Hall in Novosibirsk, Russia, and Kongress Hall in Augsburg, Germany; has made multiple appearances on NPR's nationally syndicated program From the Top, and has been featured on WFMT, WNIU, WCLV, ElmhurstTV, Fox5DC, Brazil's Record TV, and Argentina's Radio Nacional Clásica FM 96.7. He has also been featured in many recitals, including Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, the Tchaikovsky Festival in Moscow, the ProMusica series in Mexico, the Jupiter Chamber series in New York City, and the Matinée Musicale series in Ohio.

Joshua's musical ability has been recognized in competitions as well. At the age of only nineteen, Joshua won the Tenth International Violin Competition of Leopold Mozart in Augsburg, Germany, securing the First Prize, "Mozart" Prize, the Audience Award, the Chairman of the Jury Special Prize, the Kronberg Academy Special Prize, and the CD Production Special Prize. He was also awarded dozens of performance opportunities in Europe which will take place during the next three years.

Other competition victories include the Cooper International Violin Competition (Second Prize and the Audience Award) and the IX International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians held in Novosibirsk, Russia (the Audience Award, Special Prize, the Academy of Arts Golden Medal, and the Siberian Academy of Arts Talent Award). Joshua was also a top prize winner in the 2016 Stradivarius International Violin Competition; was awarded the Grand Prize for Violin in the 2016 ENKOR International Music Competition; was named the 2016/2017 American Prize Winner for Instrumental Performance; was a National YoungArts Winner in both 2016 and 2017; was awarded Grand Prize in the 2018 National Stillman-Kelly Competition; was named

a 2018 Yamaha Young Performing Artist; was awarded the Luminarts Cultural Foundation's 2019 Luminarts Fellowship for Strings, and was named the National Collegiate Strings Winner for 2019 by the National Federation of Music Clubs. Additionally, as part of Kairos String Quartet, Joshua (who alternated between first violin and viola) won First Prize at the A.N. & Pearl G. Barnett Chamber Music Competition and the Rembrandt Chamber Music Competition and earned Gold Medals in both the Junior Division of the 2018 Fischhoff National Chamber Competition and the Junior String Division of the 2018 M-Prize International Chamber Arts Competition, making Kairos the only chamber group ever to win the top prizes at both Fischhoff and M-Prize in the same year.

A recipient of the Stradivari Society of Chicago, Joshua is extremely grateful to be playing on a 1679 Pietro Guarneri violin from Cremona. He currently studies violin with Donald Weilerstein at New England Conservatory of Music (NEC), where he has been awarded a full merit Scholarship as the recipient of the Friedlaender Family Presidential Scholarship.

For the five years prior to NEC, Joshua studied with Almita and Roland Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago's (MIC) Academy as a Scholarship Fellow (recipient of both the Rachel Barton Pine Scholarship and the Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Fellowship). Other scholarships include the North Shore Chamber Music Festival's Haag/Galvin Young Artist and Arkady Fomin Scholarship, the American Opera Society of Chicago's Eleanor Pearce Sherwin Scholarship, the Highland Park Music Club Scholarship, the Parkridge Civic Orchestra's International Rotary Scholarship, and the 2019 Luminarts Cultural Foundation at the Union League Club of Chicago Classical Strings Fellowship. Joshua is passionate about reaching and connecting with new listeners and towards that end, maintains a very active presence on his Instagram account @joshuabrownviolinist.

Awards/Prizes:

2020 National Federation of Music Clubs Oscar Valentin National Award: Winner
2019 International Violin Competition of Leopold Mozart: First Prize, "Mozart" Prize, Audience Award, Chairman of the Jury Special Prize, Kronberg Academy Special Prize, and CD Production Special Prize
2019 Luminarts Cultural Foundation Classical Strings Fellowship: Winner
2019 National Federation of Music Clubs National Collegiate Auditions: String Winner
2018 Yamaha Young Performing Artist Auditions: Winner
2018 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition Junior Division: Gold Medal
2018 M-Prize International Chamber Arts Competition Junior Division: First Prize
2018 National Federation of Music Clubs Stillman-Kelly Competition: State and National Winner
2018 Parkridge Civic Orchestra Rotary International Scholarship: Winner
2018 A.N. & Pearl G. Barnett Chamber Music Competition: Grand Prize Winner
2018 Rembrandt Chamber Competition: First Prize and named 2018 Rembrandt Young Artist
2018 Saint Paul National String Quartet Competition: Silver Medal
2017/2018 Awarded the Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Fellowship at MIC's Academy
2017 Young Concert Artists: Finalist
2017 Received Arkady Fomin Scholarship and named Haag/Galvin Young Artist
2017 National YoungArts Foundation: Winner
2017 M-Prize Chamber Competition: Bronze Medal
2017 A.N. & Pearl G. Barnett Chamber Music Competition: Second Prize
2017 Chicago Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition: First Alternate Winner
2016/2017 American Prize in Instrumental Performance, high school division: Winner
2016/2017 Awarded the Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Fellowship at MIC's Academy
2016 Became a recipient of the Stradivari Society of Chicago
2016 Enkor International Music Competition: Grand Prize for Violin
2016 Stradivarius International Violin Competition: Third Prize
2016 The Bonnie and Lee Malmed Skokie Valley Symphony National Competition: First Prize
2016 American Opera Society of Chicago's Eleanor Pearce Sherwin Scholarship: Winner
2016 American Music Institute Violin Competition: First Place
2016 National YoungArts Foundation: Winner
2016 Featured on NPR's nationally syndicated program *From the Top*
2016 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition: Semifinalist
2016 Saint Paul National String Quartet Competition: Bronze Medal and Audience Award

2015 IX International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians: Audience Award, Special Prize, the Academy of Arts Golden Medal, and the Siberian Academy of Arts Talent Award
2015/16 Awarded the Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Fellowship at MIC's Academy
2015 Cooper International Violin Competition: Second Prize and Audience Award
2015 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition: Semifinalist
2015 Luminarts Cultural Foundation High School Classical Music Competition: First Place
2015 Music Institute of Chicago's Young Artist Concerto Competition: First Place
2015 A.N. & Pearl G. Barnett Chamber Music Competition: First Place and Grand Prize Award
2015 Highland Park Music Club Scholarship Competition: First Place
2015 Society of American Musicians Competition: Second Place
2015 Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra Stanger Young Artist Concerto Competition: First Place
2015 Discover National Chamber Music Competition: Honorable Mention
2015 DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers: Winner
2015 DuPage Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition: Second Place
2014/15 Awarded the Rachel Barton Pine Fellowship at MIC's Academy
2014 Sejong Music Competition: First Place
2014 MYA Walgreens National Concerto Competition: Hon. Mention in Open Senior Division
2014 Festival in Honor of Confucius Competition: First Place
2013/14 Awarded Merit Fellowship at Music Institute of Chicago's Academy
2013/14 Featured in the Alden Theatre Young Soloist Series
2013 Fairfax Symphony Feuer String Competition: Second Place
2013 Rockville Competition for Piano and Strings: First Place
2013 Levine Chamber Competition: Second Place
2012 Alexander & Buono International String Competition: First Place
2011/12 Featured in the Alden Theatre Young Soloist Series
2010 Asian American International Competition: First Place

String Study:

2018 - present: Donald Weilerstein at New England Conservatory
2013 - 2018: Almita and Roland Vamos at MIC Academy
2005 – 2013: Amy Beth Horman
2002 - 2005: Gabriela Bohnett

Musical Training:

Violin studies: 2002 - present
Piano studies: 2006 - 2012
Chamber music: 2008, 2012 – present
Orchestra: 2012 - present