

Joshua Brown

joshuabrownviolinist.com
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Biographical Overview:

Violinist Joshua Brown has been praised by audiences and critics worldwide for his “richness of sound, elegance of reading...commitment of every moment at the service of the work...” (La Libre). Joshua gained international attention after winning the 2nd Prize and both Audience Awards at the 2024 Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. Other international competition successes include the 1st Prize at the inaugural 2023 Global Music Education International Violin Competition in Beijing, China, as well as the 1st Prize and Audience Award at the 2019 International Violin Competition of Leopold Mozart in Augsburg, Germany.

Joshua was first recognized for his debut performance with the Cleveland Orchestra, of which ClevelandClassical wrote, “Brilliantly played and expertly paced, Brown’s performance checked into every emotional corner... Brown was spellbinding throughout his entire time on stage.” Joshua has gone on to perform regularly with orchestras around the world, including the Munich Radio Orchestra, MDR Sinfonieorchester, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Civic Orchestra, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, Belgian National Orchestra, and Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liege, among others, continually garnering praise from critics. After his performance of Brahms’ Violin Concerto in Beijing with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, The Strad wrote, “Brown spun out silky, weightless phrases that seemed suspended in time;” in Belgium, Le Soir described him as “a real musician, of great sensitivity...with a real sense of nuance;” and the Indianapolis Star described his sound after a performance of Mozart’s 5th Violin Concerto as “addictive and shimmering, with emotions like dynamic colors that shifted beneath a clear, glassy surface.”

A passionate recitalist and chamber musician, Joshua has also appeared regularly in series such as Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, Festival Musiq3 in Brussels, the Tchaikovsky Festival in Moscow, the ProMusica series in Mexico, the Matinée Musicale series in Cincinnati, the Jupiter Chamber Players series in New York City, and the North Shore Chamber Music Festival in Chicago. Joshua received the Kronberg Academy’s 2023 Manfred Grommek Prize, and has been named a Pirastro Artist, Yamaha Young Performing Artist, and Luminarts Fellow, among other awards. Upcoming highlights of the 2024/25 season include a recital tour of Taiwan and South Korea, as well as a series of performances of Beethoven’s Violin Concerto with the Kyoto Symphony Orchestra in Japan.

Joshua is currently pursuing his Artist Diploma at the New England Conservatory of Music studying under Donald Weilerstein after also earning his Bachelor and Master of Music there. Before his time at NEC, Joshua studied with Almita and Roland Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago. Joshua is grateful to be playing an outstanding Nicolo Amati violin from Cremona, circa 1635-1640, on extended loan through the generosity of the Mary B. Galvin Foundation and the efforts of the Stradivari Society, a division of Bein & Fushi, Inc. The Mary B. Galvin Foundation, Inc. and the Stradivari Society support the very highest level of string playing by loaning precious antique Italian instruments to artists of exceptional talent and ability.

String Study:

2022 - present: Pursuing Artist Diploma from New England Conservatory with Donald Weilerstein
2018 - 2024: Received BM and MM from New England Conservatory with Donald Weilerstein
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

Awards/Prizes:

2024 Queen Elisabeth Competition: Second Prize and both Audience Awards (The French Prix Musiq3 Audience Award and the Flemish CANVAS/KLARA-Prijs)
2023 Global Music Education League International Violin Competition: Gold Medal
2023 Kronberg Violin Masterclasses Manfred Grommek Prize: Winner
2022 11th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis: Sixth Prize
2022 Recipient of NEC's Friedlaender Family Presidential Scholarship
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