

Lillian Pearson, 15, Flute

A freshman at Lincoln-Way West High School, Lillian is a member of the Lincoln-Way Marching Band, and the LW West Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. She has been a member of the Flute Studio of Dr. Jennifer Gosack-Dorwell for the past three years and studied piano for the past seven years with Holly Manser. Lillian was a member of the ILMEA District 1 Orchestra and the ILMEA All-State Band. Recently, Lillian won third prize in the 2026 Southwest Symphony Youth Concerto Competition.

Bonnie Rickman, 15, Violin

A homeschooled freshman from Homewood, Bonnie began formal lessons at three. Her teachers include Rolando Freitag, Edward Kreitman, Patrick Connolly and, currently, Vicki Kuchta. Bonnie participated in the Chicago Youth Symphony, Lakeside Orchestra, and currently is a member of the Chicago Consort. This summer they will perform in Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Montenegro. Bonnie recently won first place in the SYSO Competition and will perform as a soloist on May 3. Outside interests include reading romance novels, participating in the Young Marines Youth Program, and spending time with friends

Liam Viebach, 17, Piano

In his eighth year of playing piano, Liam has studied under Evan Rea for the past five years. A senior at Lincoln-Way West High School, Liam participates in the Indoor Drumline, Symphonic Orchestra, and Jazz Band with non-musical interests in Mathletes and the Robotics Club. He is a member of 2 Rights and a Left, a jazz trio. Liam looks forward to traveling to Germany and France this summer, having been selected to play the piano in the Blue Lake International Jazz Band.



Dominic Rincker / Stage Manager: Dominic recently earned his Bachelor in Music Education from DePaul University. A co-founder of the Redline Theatre Company, he performed at the 2020 Rising Star Showcase.

Rising Star Showcase Directors:

Ellen Davis, Andrea Hetzel, Roosevelt Griffin Ed.D., Maryellen Tomassetti

Committee: Dr. Sharon Bean, Lois Birer, Richard Davis, Dory Machtinger, Marcia Steward, Barbara Sturges, Pantelis Bolarakis (RS 2016)

THANKS TO THE IPO OFFICE STAFF FOR ALL OF THEIR HELP

CHRISTINA SALERNO • ROOSEVELT GRIFFIN ED.D
KEN CHURILLA • TRISH HALPIN • BROOKE SIMKINS

2026 Rising Star Showcase

Proceeds Benefit
Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

March 22, 2026

Flossmoor Community Church

Friends
of the
IPO

Levana Chen
Annie Ford
Flower
Elly Jeon
Sophie McManus
Lillian Pearson
Bonnie Rickman
Liam Viebach

FIRST HELD IN 2009, LEADERS IN ORGANIZING THE RISING STAR SHOWCASE WERE DORY MACTINGER AND THE LATE HELEN SILVIA. THE EVENT WAS FIRST HELD AT PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE AND THEN IN LATER YEARS, MOVED TO FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH. IN THAT TIME, MANY VOLUNTEERS HAVE GIVEN THEIR VALUABLE TIME TO HELP HIGHLIGHT MANY OF THE MOST TALENTED YOUNGSTERS FROM THE SOUTH SUBURBS.

2026 Rising Star Showcase

Sponsored by the Friends of the IPO

Albert M. Jackson - Master of Ceremonies

Former Director, South Holland Master Chorale

ELLY JEON, B flat Clarinet

Concerto for Clarinet No. 1, First Movement | Bernhard Henrik Crusell

LEVANA CHEN, Violin

Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, First Movement | Max Bruch

LILLIAN PEARSON, Flute

Fantaisie | Georges Hüe

BONNIE RICKMAN, Violin

Violin Concerto No. 9 in A Minor, Op. 104, Allegro maestoso | Charles de Beriot

ANNIE FORD, Trumpet

Andante Et Allegro | Guillaume Balay

SOPHIE McMANUS, French Horn

Villanelle | Paul Dukas

FLOWER, Violin

Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 63 III. Allegro, ben marcato | Sergei Prokofiev

LIAM VIEBACH, Piano

Impromptu by Liam Viebach, Appassionata | Liam Viebach

Friends of the IPO would like to thank the following people for their generous support of our young artists:

Anonymous, Patricia Barker, Sharon Bean, Lois Birer, Carole Brejcha, Joey & Steve Buck, Ellen & Richard Davis, Andrea & Richard Gibb, Andrea Hetzel, Karen & Perry Hoag, Joann Lindholm, Janet & Mel Muchnik, Mayor Michelle & Cameron Nelson, Michael Rogers & Jerri E. Greer, Christina Salerno & Ross Sweeney, Patricia Schanaberger, Don & Jeanne Schwarz, Marilyn Tannebaum, Lynn & Bruce Werth, and Terri Winfree.

SPECIAL THANKS to our Master of Ceremonies Albert Jackson, Dr. Lisa Kristina and Sue Pawlak for their piano accompaniment, Ned Risky for his photography and video, and the staff at Flossmoor Community Church. Photographs available at [NedThePhotographer.com](https://www.NedThePhotographer.com).

About Our Performers

Levana Chen, 13, Violin

An eighth grader at Grissom Middle School in Tinley Park, Levana began playing the violin at age four. She studied with Rebekah Cope and has been working with Carl Johnston since 2023. She has participated in the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra first violins section for three years and is second violin in their Opus Quartet. Levana received the Edith Root Scholarship in 2024 which enabled her to attend the OPUS Summer Music Camp. Outside of violin, she enjoys figure skating, baking, and reading.

Annie Ford, 18, Trumpet

Annie Ford is a senior at Homewood-Flossmoor High-school with a strong passion for music. She is taught by her band directors Sarah Whitlock, and Kelly Cooper along with her private lessons teacher Chuck Parrish. Annie has participated in ILMEA district festivals since her sophomore year and attended a Future Music Educators Seminar through ILMEA. In addition to playing trumpet for four years, Annie enjoys singing and playing guitar as well as piano. She plays water polo for H-F and is a member of the National Music Honors Society.

Flower Jebo, 18, Violin

Flower has played the violin for thirteen years. She chose to become a violinist after playing a video game on her older brother's computer and falling in love with the instrument. From Lowell, Indiana, she is currently studying with Tosca Opdam. Flower hopes to bring classical music to people her age through solo performance and her work with the chamber group 42-87, created by Flower and two friends. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to emo music.

Elly Jeon, 16, B flat Clarinet

Elly is a junior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. She started playing clarinet in fifth grade and has been playing for six years. A member of the Midwest Young Artists Orchestra in her freshman year, Elly is currently a member of Stevenson's Wind Ensemble. For the past three years, Elly has been a North Shore Honor Band member. In addition to her music, she is treasurer of the Korean Club and an active member of HOSA (Future Health Professionals).

Sophie McManus, 18, French Horn

A senior at Homewood Flossmoor High School, Sophie is taught by her band directors Sarah Whitlock and Kelly Cooper while receiving private lessons from Peter Jirousek the last four years. She participated in the ILMEA Honors Band for the 2024 and 2025 district festivals and received the Jane Hindsley Award. Sophie participates in the HF cross country, fencing and water polo teams and is a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Illinois Music Honors Society.