



The Amarillo Symphony  
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### **Amarillo Symphony Guild Young Artist Project Announces Winners**

*Congratulations to the 6 winners of the 2016-2017 Young Artist Project!*

AMARILLO, TEXAS – (August 10, 2016) - The Amarillo Symphony Guild Young Artist Project today recognizes the winners of the 2016-2017 competition. Out of a total of 15 applications, 6 students were chosen as the recipients of private music lessons for 36 weeks and will work with professional instructors from the area to strengthen their skills and education of their specific instrument.

In 2012, the Amarillo Symphony Guild began a new program to provide private music instruction to gifted young musicians who would not otherwise be able to afford it. The Project began with an application from the student's parent, a letter from the student explaining why they would like to receive private music lessons, and a letter of recommendation from the student's band or orchestra director. Those applications are then reviewed by a committee which includes Guild members, the Executive Director of the Symphony, and an Amarillo Symphony musician.

"The Young Artist project provides a few exceptional students in Amarillo the opportunity to work closely with talented musical professionals in the area said Bailey Smith, co-chairman of the Young Artist Project. "Students apply and a few are selected through a selection committee. The six recipients for 2016-2017 demonstrate not only a financial need for lessons but a strong desire and enthusiasm to improve themselves, their orchestras, and take everything they learn through this opportunity and apply it to music and beyond."

#### **The following are the 2016-2017 recipients of the Young Artist Project:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Instrument</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Matthew Cortez	Cello	Caprock High School	9th
Aaron Gonzales	Percussion	Caprock High School	11th
Sebastian Diaz	Clarinet	Canyon High School	12th
Jacqueline Valdavinos	Clarinet	Canyon High School	12th
Emmanuel Blanco	Clarinet	Palo Duro High School	10th
Jayla Martin	Viola	Palo Duro High School	10th

Congratulations to all of this year's winners and we look forward to the continued success of these students throughout their music education.

For more information about the program, please visit <http://amarillosymphony.org/education/young-artist-project/>