



JAMES M. COLLIER

SISKIYOU VIOLINS

PO Box 4546 Medford, OR 97501
email: info@siskiyouviolins.org

PRESS RELEASE

September 26, 2024

The James M. Collier Siskiyou Violins Shine on the Global Stage at the 2024 Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival in Vienna, Austria

Ashland, OR – This summer, the James M. Collier Siskiyou Violins, a group of 29 talented young violinists from Southern Oregon, dazzled old Europe. Performing in some of Vienna's finest music halls—where Mozart composed, and Beethoven performed symphonies—the ensemble competed in the prestigious 2024 Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival. An invitation-only event, the festival brings together extraordinarily talented and well-rehearsed youth ensembles, symphonies, and orchestras from around the world. Siskiyou Violins secured an impressive second place in the category of Summa Ensembles.

Amid the whispers and intrigue of Vienna, where the legacy of composers like Mozart and Beethoven still resonates, some speculated that Siskiyou Violins' performance was deserving of first place. Regardless of the outcome, the ensemble's remarkable musicianship and passion for their craft left an indelible mark on audiences, reaffirming that in Vienna, where competition is fierce, second place is a prestigious achievement.

Among the tour's many highlights was an evening concert in a historic village church outside Vienna. The church was filled to the last chair, and after several standing ovations, the audience eagerly requested encores of multiple pieces. The violinists' moving performance touched the hearts of all in attendance. After the concert, the group and their families were invited to join the congregation for a feast of local food and wine, rounding out a beautiful summer evening in the heart of Europe.

Siskiyou Violins, under the expert leadership of acclaimed director Faina Podolnaya, is no stranger to international success. Ms. Podolnaya's protégés have previously earned prestigious awards at Carnegie Hall in New York City—taking home three gold medals and a Carnegie Medal—and at an international youth music festival in Los Angeles, where they achieved a perfect score of 100 out of 100, the first in the festival's history.

The violinists who traveled to Vienna hailed from across the Rogue Valley, with a few coming from as far as Redding, CA, and Santa Cruz, CA, to rehearse with the group in Ashland before embarking on their European journey.

Following a brief break after Vienna, Siskiyou Violins are now preparing for several holiday season performances. The group continues to rehearse every other Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church in Ashland.

For more information about Siskiyou Violins, their upcoming performances, and ways to support these talented young musicians, please visit siskiyouviolins.org.

For further information, or to arrange for an interview with the music director or performers, please contact Siskiyou Violins at: info@siskiyouviolins.org