

**Davidson Fellow  
Reylon Yount**

\$10,000 Scholarship Recipient



**Personal Info**

Age: 16  
San Francisco, California

**School, College, and Career Plans**

Reylon is a rising high school senior, and candidate for a Bilingual International Baccalaureate diploma, at International High School in San Francisco. He is considering his choice of colleges and plans to pursue the study of International Relations with an emphasis on China.

**Davidson Fellows Submission: Music**

In his project, "The Second Silk Road: Bridging East and West Through Chinese Music," Reylon created a yangqin, or Chinese hammered dulcimer, portfolio that has contributed to the preservation of Chinese music, to the introduction of Chinese music to people in the United States, and to the overall interconnection of the music world. His work attempts to take people past the conventional shapes and forms of Western music, helping them appreciate the universality of art. He hopes that such cross-cultural music will build a deeper connection between the East and West, and inspire people to love all music.

**Biography**

The inspiration for Reylon's project comes mainly from his background – he is biracial and attended the bilingual Chinese-American International School through eighth grade. Having grown up in a bilingual/bicultural environment, the notion of bridging the cultures of East and West has been ingrained in Reylon, and he has experienced firsthand how cross-cultural relationships can be beneficial.

Reylon began playing the yangqin when he was eight years old, and has completed the bulk of his study at the Chinese Arts and Music Center in San Francisco. He also studied with world-renowned yangqin master Professor He Huang at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music in the summers of 2010 and 2011. He enjoys performing this little-known instrument at various local venues, as well as participating in Chinese music competitions held annually in San Jose.

In addition to his interest in Chinese music, Reylon is interested in other aspects of Chinese culture, such as *wushu* (Chinese martial arts). He also enjoys competitive mathematics, is captain of his school's badminton team, and is the incoming Student Body President, having served on student council for the past three years. Reylon is involved with acting and comedy, and reserves time on Mondays to reenact Saturday Night Live skits with his friends.

*Please see next page.*



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*(cont.)*

- 2011 Davidson Fellow
- 2011 Dartmouth Book Award Recipient
- 2010 HSK Scholarship, sponsored by Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language and Confucius Institute
- 2010 Intl. Chinese Music Competition Gold Medal, Solo & Group Performances (15-21)
- 2010 U.S. High School Chinese Speech Contest, Massachusetts First Place
- 2010 American Math Competition AMC 12 School Champion, and AIME Qualifier
- 2010, 2009, 2007 Classical Poetry Recital, Chinese Bridge Cup Contest First Place
- 2009 PIVD International Competition, Gold Medal, Instrument Category, (15 and under)
- 2009 CLASS National Chinese Essay Contest Golden Apple Award
- 2009 United States Achievement Academy All-American Scholar Scholarship
- 2009 Chinese Language Teachers Association of California Annual Chinese Speech Contest First Place
- 2008 Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) SAT/ACT State Award for High Honors and STB State Award for High Honors, Grades 7-8
- 2008 CTY Scholarship, University of San Francisco
- 2007 San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair Second Place in Biology
- 2007 24<sup>th</sup> Annual San Francisco Science Fair First Place in Biology
- 2007 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Young Marine Scientist Award

**Community Activities**

Reylon has volunteered at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the visitor center at the Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary in San Francisco. He is a teaching assistant for his former school's MathCounts Program and performs regularly for various organizations, events and charities.