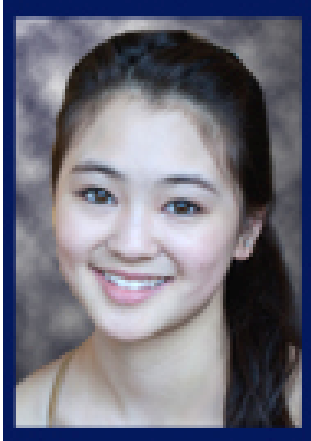


Davidson Fellow Laureate
Simone Porter
\$50,000 Scholarship Recipient



Personal Info

Age: 14
Seattle, Washington

School, College and Career Plans

Simone has been at the Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles going on four years and is beginning her second year at the Colburn Academy. She is a high school junior and all her academic studies are done online. She plans to become a professional violinist.

Davidson Fellows Submission: Music

In her portfolio, “Performance as Soundtrack of Process and Identity,” Simone examines the progression of performance preparation, from the development of technique and interpretation, to the emergence of a professional identity. This process led her to comprehend the transformative, inspirational and transcendent potency music possesses. Through performance, Simone believes music has the potential to aid our society, and help achieve a kinder, more tolerant attitude toward ourselves and our natural environment. Simone was a featured performer on PBS’ “From the Top at Carnegie Hall.”

Biography

Simone became interested in music, particularly opera, when she was only two years old, and asked her parents for violin lessons. Ever since she began studying violin at the age of three, music’s importance in her has life steadily increased.

The idea of transcendence through performance has always been intriguing and attractive to Simone and she strives to understand the power of musical performance on different levels. Through her performances, Simone sees how entertainment establishes bonds between diverse people, dissolving boundaries and generating acts of great kindness. While working on her Davidson Fellows portfolio, she was on the brink of the biggest transition in her life; she had to reconcile the conflicting pull of academics, travel, her social life and her musical education. Ultimately it was resolved through the process of preparing for professional performances, the subject of her portfolio. She is also grateful for the strong support she received from her teacher, Mr. Lipsett.

When she’s not practicing and performing, Simone enjoys reading the New Yorker, watching Joss Whedon television shows and Asian horror films, musician jokes, and performing for young audiences to introduce them to classical music.

Please see next page.



Davidson Fellow Laureate
Simone Porter
(cont.)

- 2011 Davidson Fellow Laureate
- 2011 Recipient of a 1742 Camillus Camilli violin generously loaned by the Mandell Collection of Southern California
- 2011 Milton Keynes City Orchestra soloist
- 2011 Hong Kong City Chamber Orchestra soloist
- 2011 Olympia Symphony soloist
- 2011, 2010 Colburn Academy merit scholarship recipient
- 2010 Colburn Conservatory Orchestra soloist
- 2010 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra soloist
- 2010 Great Eastern Kids Performing Arts Festival featured soloist
- 2010 Young Musician's Foundation Debut Orchestra soloist
- 2009 Featured in the BBC Documentary: *The World's Greatest Musical Prodigies*
- 2009 Northern Sinfonia soloist
- 2008 Featured performer on PBS' *From the Top at Carnegie Hall*
- 2008 Seeds of Compassion ceremony honoring the Dalai Lama, featured performer
- 2008 Seattle Young Artists Music Festival Concerto Competition winner
- 2008 Philharmonia Northwest soloist
- 2007 Seattle Youth Symphony Classical Orchestra's Concerto Competition, first place
- 2007 Featured on NPR's *From the Top*
- 2006 Seattle Symphony soloist
- 2006 Olympia Symphony soloist
- 2005 Port Angeles Symphony soloist

Community Activities

Simone has frequently performed in retirement homes as part as the Seattle Conservatory of Music Outreach Program, as well as outreach concerts for elementary schools. Through the Colburn Academy, she teaches an underprivileged student from Para Los Niños, a nonprofit that works with at-risk children.

Photo credit: Philip Pirolo