



## Saskatoon Pianist wins 2023 SMFA Concerto Competition



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), Jeri Ryba, President is pleased to announce that the 35<sup>th</sup> SMFA Concerto Competition was won by Saskatoon pianist Alice Li, with her performance of Chopin's *Piano Concerto in e minor, Op. 11*. She was accompanied by Sofia Mycyk. Alice received the first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

Alice Li, 22, is a Saskatoon-based pianist and a recent Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology graduate from the University of Saskatchewan, where she studied under the George and Marsha Ivany President's Scholarship. Alice is the recipient of numerous accolades at provincial and national levels. She holds an ARCT diploma (Piano Performance) from the Royal Conservatory of Music and has worked as the collaborative pianist for the Saskatoon Strings since 2016. Alice has performed in masterclasses for artists such as Jan Lisiecki, John Perry, Janina Fialkowska, and Ian Parker. She currently studies with Sofia Mycyk and is incredibly grateful to her past teachers Bonnie Nicholson, Sarah Konescni, Cassandra Stinn, and Donna Bramwell for their guidance. Outside of music, she enjoys oil painting, fitness, and spending time with her friends and family.

Five young musicians competed in the competition, held at the University of Saskatchewan on February 26. Connor Elias, pianist, placed second and Brandon Johnson, violinist, placed third. The competition was judged by Darryl Friesen of Winnipeg, MB and Maria Medlow, Calgary, AB.

