

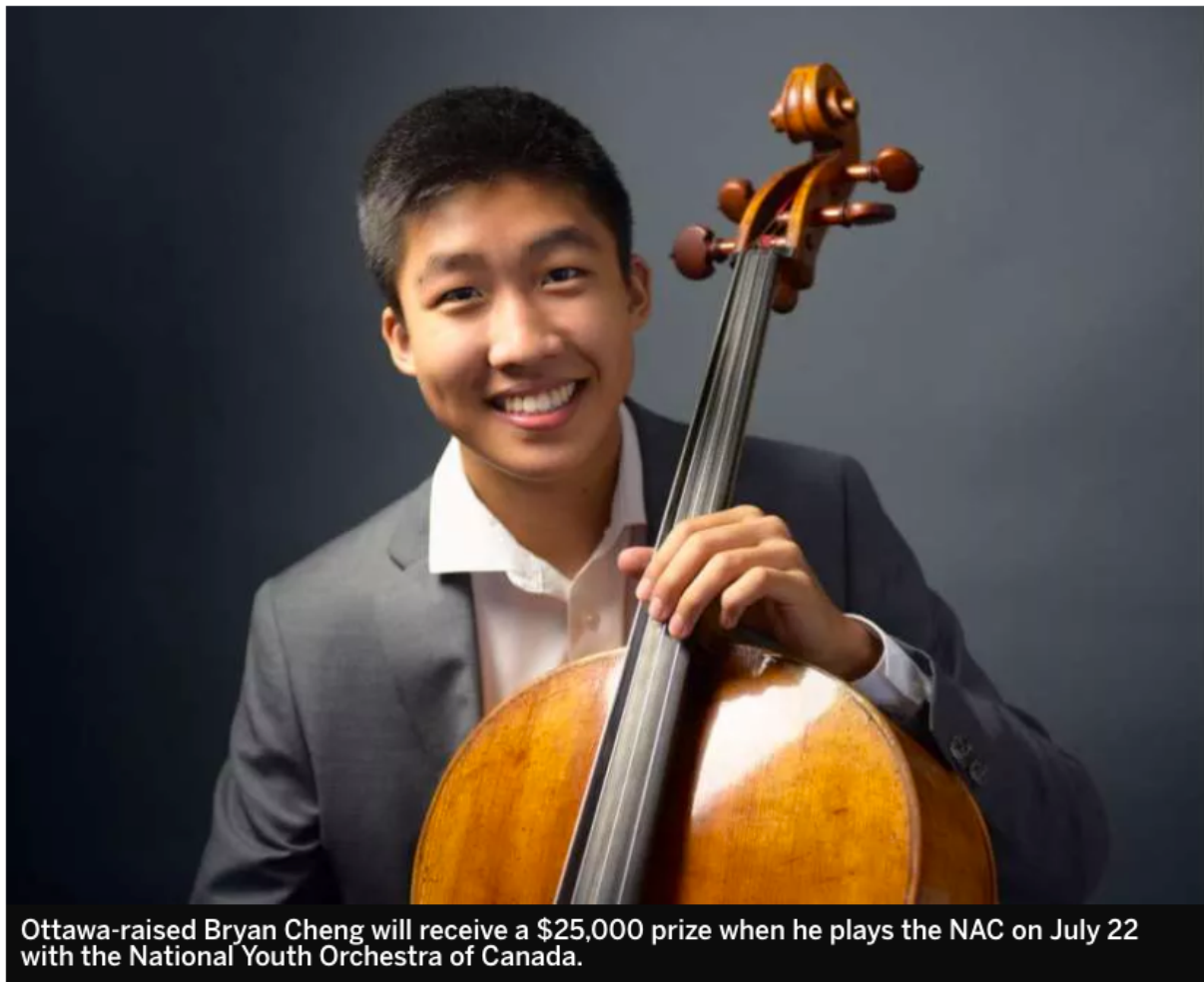
Ottawa's rising-star cellist Bryan Cheng receives \$25,000 Michael Measures Prize



PETER HUM, OTTAWA CITIZEN

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Ottawa-raised Bryan Cheng will receive a \$25,000 prize when he plays the NAC on July 22 with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada.

Cellist Bryan Cheng, a 19-year-old Ottawa native, will be awarded the 2017 Michael Measures Prize, which recognizes promising young Canadian classical music performers.

A collaboration between the Canada Council for the Arts and the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, the \$25,000 prize is awarded annually to a musician between 16 and 20 who is enrolled in the youth orchestra's summer training program. The prize is named after Measures, a music enthusiast and long-time volunteer in the Ottawa arts community, who died in 2008 and left a bequest to the Canada Council.

“I’m extremely honoured to be the recipient of the Michael Measures Prize,” Cheng said in a statement. “I also realize how very fortunate I am as a Canadian to receive support like this that enables me to pursue my dreams — I feel even more inspired and invigorated.”

Cheng, who is based in Berlin where he attends The University of the Arts, will tour Canada this summer as a soloist with the youth orchestra, performing at 11 concerts from Charlottetown to Whitehorse.

Cheng will receive his prize in Ottawa at the National Arts Centre when the youth orchestra kicks off its Canadian tour with a concert on July 22 as part of the Canada Scene Festival. Cheng will be performing Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto No. 1.

Last year, Cheng, whose older sister is the New York-based classical pianist Silvie Cheng, won the \$7,000 top prize at the National Arts Centre Orchestra’s 2016 Bursary Competition.

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BRYAN CHENG