

# Five Minutes with Bryan Cheng: A Q&A with the winner of the NAC Orchestra's 2016 Bursary Competition

At 18, Bryan Cheng has attracted widespread attention for his natural command of the cello and his passion for making music. In May, Bryan won the NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition, which provides financial support to help further the development of young musicians who have connections to the National Capital Region. Today, Bryan talks about what the award means to him.

**Q:** When and how did you get interested in the cello?

**A:** I was inspired by my older sister, Silvie, who is now also my duo partner. I watched her perform and grew up hearing her practice the piano. When I was three, I told my parents I wanted to play an instrument as well. My mom took me to listen to some masterclasses – first a violin one, and then a cello one. I was attracted to the sound of the cello and still am!

**Q:** What went through your mind when you learned you won the *NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition*?

**A:** I was happy and overwhelmed! Eight years ago, I played with the NAC Orchestra for the first time as part of the NAC Family Series, and now, being selected by a panel of distinguished musicians as the recipient of the Bursary brings that memory back.

**Q:** What does this award mean to you as a young instrumentalist aspiring to an orchestral career?

**A:** Playing in an orchestra is very helpful for any musician. There are so many important skills that are extremely valuable in the development and growth



**Bryan Cheng**  
Photo submitted

of young artists. It is fantastic that the NAC Orchestra not only recognizes this but also encourages and fosters the artistic development of young musicians through the *Bursary Competition*.

**Q:** What message would you like to send to supporters who help make the *NAC Orchestra Bursary* possible?

**A:** Thank you for your generosity and for contributing to the development of the careers of young artists. In return, I want to continue to make more beautiful music to enrich people's lives, as well as my own.

