

GUILD WINNER: 20 QUESTIONS



Miriam Elsayi

Instrument: Viola

Current Age: 20

Age Won: Age 17

How did you feel to win the Guild Competition? What was it like to prepare for it?

It was amazing to win! It had been a goal of mine for years, so getting that opportunity and knowing I would get to play with the orchestra was so exciting. Having that goal to work for as early as November was great motivation to prepare a concerto fast, and well.

What are you up to now?

I am now doing my third year of viola performance at Western University.

What is your favourite pop song?

Settle Down, by Ricky Montgomery

Do you ever listen to Country/Western?

There are some choice country songs that I love!

What did you do last summer?

Last summer I got to play as a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada! It was absolutely one of the coolest experience of my life.

How often do you play your instrument?

Everyday! I am trying to get up to 3 hours of practice in a day, but that's a work in progress.

What is your favourite dish to order at a restaurant?

I love Japanese veggie tempura!

What is your favourite fruit?

Apples or kiwi

Who is your favourite composer lately?

Probably Brahms!

What is your favourite social media account to follow?

A little nerdy, but I love seeing the posts of the U.S National Park Service. I am a bit of a naturalist at heart.

Did the WSYO experience help you as you moved on to other things in your life?

Definitely! Being part of a youth ensemble like that taught me really valuable orchestra skills and leadership skills.

Do you have a career goal? If yes, would you share it with us?

Orchestra musician! I don't have a specific orchestra, but I would love to play in Europe someday.

Chips or Chocolate?

Chips! I am a salty snack person

Do you have a favourite way to exercise?

I like walking, and swimming

Do you have a role model? (Someone you know/don't know/ famous/ otherwise?)

I really look up to Sharon Wei, my current teacher. She is an amazing performer and such a hard worker

Android or iOS?

Android!

Favourite movie?

Knives Out - super good plot, and beautiful cinematography! Also really funny

Best way to spend your spare time?

I love listening to music, it's a full hobby.

If you could ask a question of anyone, living or dead, what would it be?

I would love to ask my father's mom about her childhood in Egypt!

We are proud to add that Miriam has recently begun playing with the WSO as a professional musician. She was on stage for a Pops concert last season and performed at our opening Masterworks concert in September 2022. Miriam also helped out with the Youth Orchestra this past summer as they prepared for their summer tour. Miriam is a wonderful person and a dedicated and talented musician. Thanks to the Guild for shining a light on her progress in music!