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**Music Director Richard Pittman Reflects Upon the
Legacy of the New England Philharmonic's Annual Young Artist Competition,
now in its 20th year, as the NEP Names 2014 Winner,
14 Year Old, Austin Kwoun**

**Winner will perform Cadenza and Burlesque of Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1, Opus 77
at NEP's December 14th Family Concert "All Aboard"**



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS | The [New England Philharmonic](#) (NEP), under the direction of [Richard Pittman](#), has named 14 year-old violinist **Austin Kwoun** from Belmont, Massachusetts winner of their **20th Annual Young Artist Competition**. Kwoun will perform **Cadenza and Burlesque of Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto No. 1, Opus 77*** with the NEP, at their annual family concert "[All Aboard](#)" on December 14th at 3 p.m. at the **Tsai Performance Center**. The concert will also feature **Rob Kapilow** *Chris van Allsburg's Polar Express* featuring David Kravitz, baritone and Newton Public Schools All City Treble Singers; the Boston premiere of **Michael Gandolfi's *Night Train to Perugia***; **Arthur Honegger *Pacific 23***, and **Heitor Villa-Lobos *Little Train of Caipira* & *Toccata*** from *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 2*.

Richard Pittman, NEP's Music Director, who has presided over all twenty of NEP's Young Artist Competitions, recalls a common denominator of the past winners. "You could see and hear in each of them the combination of God given talent, tremendous hard work, great teachers and parental support." Maestro Pittman continues, "The parents have to be commended. They've got this tiger by the tail, with a high level of intelligence, ambition and great gifts, and your responsibility as a parent is to nurture that, yet still maintain the balance of a healthy well-rounded childhood."

2014 Winner Austin Kwoun began his musical studies on the violin at the age of 8 under the tutelage of Ms. Jin Kyung Joen at the New England Conservatory (NEC) Preparatory School in Boston. Kwoun, now fourteen is a member of the NEC's Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and is a core member of the Boston Youth Music Charity group and performs in various local venues to raise money for UNICEF and Cradles to Crayons. As a young musician, Austin has garnered numerous awards and accolades including: the 2013 Director's Choice Award at the Jeanne Selander Concerto Competition, hosted by the Lowell Philharmonic Orchestra; first place at the 2013 Ellen Huff Powers Young Artist Competition, first place at the 2013 Roman Totenberg Young Musician String Competition. Earlier this year he placed second at the American Protege International Romantic Music Competition, and performed at Carnegie Hall in April. He also attended the Foulger International Music Festival, where he was chosen to participate in a master class with Joseph Lin of the Julliard String Quartet, and perform at Lincoln Center in New York City. Austin is currently a 9th grader at the Belmont Hill School.

Tickets for the NEP's Annual Family Concert on December 14th at 3 p.m. at Tsai Performance Center are available at www.NEPhilharmonic.org. A pre-concert brunch for NEP concert ticket holders will be served at [Petit Robert in Kenmore Square](#) for \$30.

The NEP will be holding a **gift drive at the concert to benefit [Cradles to Crayons](#)**. New and unwrapped art supplies, clothing and shoes for children 0-12 will be collected. All participants will be entered into a raffle to win NEP concert tickets.

About the New England Philharmonic Now entering its 38th season, the New England Philharmonic (NEP), under the direction of Richard Pittman, is internationally renowned for its daring programming encompassing both contemporary and traditional works. In 2013 the volunteer orchestra was awarded its ninth ASCAP award for Adventurous Programming and named Gunther Schuller composer laureate. The *Boston Globe* named NEP's recent performance of Britten's *War Requiem* as one of the "10 Best Classical Music Performances of the Year." The orchestra's illustrious past includes the installation of three landmark programs. The NEP became the first orchestra of its size to support a Composer-in-Residence (1985), introduce a Call for Scores Program (1985), and a Young Artist Competition (1994), legacies that endure today.

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Interviews & High Resolution Images

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