

Pikeville, KY – Two Richmond piano students played their way to winning performances during the First Annual Dorothy G. Marsh Piano Competition held January 25 and 26 at Pikeville.

Chenyu “Sherry” Xu was the Silver Medal winner and the recipient of a \$2,000 music scholarship while Meredith Rigby was awarded the Bronze Medal and a \$1,000 music scholarship.

Miss Xu is a 17 year old student at the Model Laboratory High School in Richmond and the daughter of Bangteng Xu and Yanfen Chen of Richmond. Miss Xu offered an extraordinary performance of the *III Movement Rondo: Allegretto moderato – prestissimo* from *Beethoven’s Sonata No. 21 in C Major Op. 53*, *Frederic Chopin’s Nocturne in C Major, Op. 48, No. 1*, and *L’isle Joyeuse* by Claude A. Debussy.

She had previously been selected for the Governor’s School for the Arts, earned 3rd Place (Honorable Mention) in the Senior Piano Southern Division of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and was the Kentucky State winner in the MTNA Senior Piano Competition. Miss Xu is currently a student of Dr. Gregory Partain of Transylvania University.

Miss Rigby, 17, is the daughter of Lee and Terri Rigby of Richmond and is currently a student of Ms. Laurie Choi of Richmond.

Miss Rigby earned her Bronze Medal with her excellent performances of *Valse Op. 70, No. 2* by *Frederic Chopin*, *J. S. Bach’s Sinfonia No. 7 in E Minor and Sonata in G, K 283, mvt. I, Allegro*, by *W. A. Mozart*.

Miss Rigby’s most recent recognitions for her piano prowess include taking

Superior ratings at both the 2005 and 2006 Kentucky Federation of Music Clubs Festivals, being awarded a scholarship to the 2007 Foster Music Camp and 2nd Place in the Lexington Bach Contest.

The Dorothy G. Marsh Piano Competition is sponsored by The Marsh Foundation and will be held each year for Eastern Kentucky students ages 13 through 18. The adjudicator for this year's competition was Christopher Harding, Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Harding is an internationally renowned concert pianist, having won more than 25 first place honors in piano competitions.

The Marsh Foundation was founded by Lawrence B. Marsh, a Paintsville (KY) native and current resident of Frederick, Maryland. The piano competition was created in honor of his late mother, Dorothy G. Marsh, an accomplished pianist, and is one of the ways the Foundation seeks to foster talent and innovation in Eastern Kentucky.

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