

Basking Ridge girl wins state piano competition



Helen Shen, 10, of Basking Ridge recently won first place in her age category in the state Music Teachers Association Young Musicians Competition.

BERNARDS TWP. – Helen Shen, a 10-year-old fifth grader at Mount Prospect School in Basking Ridge, was the first-place winner in her age group at the 2010 New Jersey Music Teachers Association (NJMTA) Young Musicians Competition held Sunday, Nov. 7, at Rider University's Princeton campus.

She will now perform at the final event of the NJMTA 2010 State Conference, the Young Musicians Competition Winners Recital, on Sunday, Nov. 21, in Voorhees Chapel at Rutgers University's Douglass Campus.

For the second year, she also won the Cecilian Music Club Young Artist Competition and is scheduled to perform in New York City's Lincoln Center on Saturday, Dec. 4.

The young musician began studying piano at the age of 5 with Lana Ivanov of Bridgewater, who, with her mother, Yelena Ivanov, co-founded the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey (YPCNJ), which promotes music and piano education for young artists.

As a winner of several YPCNJ competitions, Helen has performed numerous times at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall in New York.

She also participated in Festival Musica in Laguna, a music festival in Chioggia, Italy, that is the highlight of YPCNJ's annual program.