

Elena's Biography

Elena Ariza, 7th grader, age 12, is currently a student of Sieun Lin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Preparatory Division. In addition to taking cello lessons, Elena takes Chamber Music Classes and Musicianship Classes. Elena began to study the cello and the piano when she was 4 years old. Her first cello teacher made the educational video "The Art of Teaching", starring Elena, which is now sold in the U.S.

When she was 7 years old, she invited to perform the cello for the Pacific Musical Society in Napa Valley and played "The Swan" by Saint-Saens.

Elena won 1st place in the Music Teachers Association's CMTANC competition in June 2010 and was selected to perform in the Junior Bach Festival in 2009 and 2011. She was also awarded in the Menuhin-Dowling Young Musicians' Competitions (2010) and the Ishikawa Music Academy in Japan (2010). Elena received the 1st place alternate in the VOCE competition in 2011.

Elena played in several master classes lead by David Finckel, Bonnie Hampton, Irene Sharp, Hakuro Mori, Sang-Min Park among others. In past summers, Elena attended the summer music programs through out in the U.S. and Japan such as Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival and Institute, Summer Music West, National Cello Institute in Claremont, the Irene Sharp Cello Summer Workshop and the Ishikawa Music Academy.

She had performed the Cello Concerto in c minor by J. C. Bach as a soloist with the El Camino Youth Symphony in '08.

Elena serves as a principal cellist in the Advanced Orchestra at Lawson Middle School for 2 years.

Elena is qualified for the G.A.T.E. (Gifted And Talented Education) program in the Cupertino School District in California.

In her spare time, Elena enjoys dancing ballet, swimming, and riding her unicycle.

