Celebration of Strings
Spring 2014

www.wku.edu/strings
As our year draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the past twelve months. First of all, I am most proud of our students. They are the ones who have put in the many hours of practice and rehearsal, into bettering themselves, and in turn, our program. Next, I would like to thank our parents. Your tireless efforts have provided endless opportunities to our students, and have helped to build a rich and lasting program.

We have had such a jam-packed and fun-filled semester, with a wide range of activities. During the spring semester, our program had an active presence at both the state and national level. In February, violinists Anayah and Shmu’el Ricketts demonstrated technical exercises for my presentation entitled “It’s All About the Bow” at the Kentucky Music Educators’ Association Conference. Later, in March, our students were also demonstrators at the American String Teacher’s Association (ASTA) National Conference in Louisville. Christie Lin and Kana Takahori assisted in sessions entitled “Vibrato from the Ground Up” and “Shifting with Ease,” respectively, in front of hundreds of music educators from all over the country. These students were excellent examples of all of the exciting things happening in the WKU Pre-College Strings Program.

In addition to these large-scale productions, our program has also hosted a variety of events around Bowling Green. As you will see in the following pages, we have been incredibly active in organizing masterclasses, community outreach performances, and recitals, further adding to the vibrant arts community of Bowling Green. Our students have had the opportunity to perform for the Concertmaster of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, as well as professors from the Peabody Conservatory (Baltimore, MD), the University of North Texas, and the University of North Florida.

On behalf of the Program, I would like to say a heartfelt goodbye to our faculty member Hisham Groover. Hisham has been our program’s Graduate Assistant for the past two years, and completed his Masters of Music in Pedagogy (violin) this spring. He has been a vibrant and inspiring member of our faculty, and he has fostered the love of music in so many young people in our program. We will sorely miss him, and we wish him the best in his further musical endeavors.

I am already looking forward to next year and the many amazing opportunities to come. I hope to see you all at the String Explosion (July 21st-26th), and next fall. Have a wonderful summer!

Ching-Yi Lin
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Spring 2014
Student Performances

March 23rd
WKU pre-college and college students gave a performance for the residents at the Bowling Green Retirement Village.

PERFORMERS
Elizabeth Bohlander, Joey Breslin, Autumn Brown, Emerson Carrigan, Sonia Conte, Laila Crowe, Grace Drexel, Christie Lin, Curtis Lin, Kelly Lin, Breona Link, Taylor Napier, Frannie Rigsby-Tinch, Paul Rigsby-Tinch, Carly Shoulders, Kana Takahori, and Katie Woosley

March 26th
WKU pre-college students gave a Spring Solo Recital for families and friends in the FAC Recital Hall.

PERFORMERS
Zoe Avery, Garrett Barr, Elizabeth Bohlander, Joey Breslin, Autumn Brown, Emma Cox, Laila Crowe, Olivia Gaskill, Millicent German, James Han, Christie Lin, Curtis Lin, Kelly Lin, Taylor Napier, Amy Pan, Emily Simons, Kana Takahori, Anayah Ricketts, Eliana Ricketts, and Shmu’el Ricketts

March 29th
WKU pre-college cello students performed beautiful solos and group pieces for everyone before The Symphony at WKU concert in Van Meter. Their talented teacher, Mrs. B, accompanied them on the piano. They performed pieces from Suzuki Books 1, 2, and 3.

PERFORMERS
Curtis Lin, Eliana Ricketts, Frannie Rigsby-Tinch, Natalie Duncan, Abigail German

April 27th
The cello studio of Sarah Berry presented the 2nd Annual Cellobration Recital at Unitarian Universalist Church in Bowling Green.

May 1st
Pre-college viola student Layne Guyer, gave a beautiful Senior Recital.

May 3rd
May 3rd marked our end of the semester solo recitals for violinists and violists. Recitals Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms, each named after a famous German composer, were performed back-to-back in one afternoon.

Students did a wonderful job filling the FAC Recital Hall with beautiful music, and everyone got home in time to watch the Derby race!

May 17th
Vanessa Brown and Carly Shoulders performed a joint Violin Recital at the New Music Rehearsal Hall.

Breona Link at Spring Solo Recital
Bowling Green Retirement Village performance
On Saturday, May 9th, the Pre-College Strings Program presented its final concert of the year: the Spring Group Recital. This recital featured all of the string groups: Beginners, Violin I – IV, Western Violins, Cello I, and Cello Choir. These groups performed works from a diverse range of compositions, including Beethoven’s haunting “Moonlight Sonata” (Violin IV), Peter Martin’s lilting “Gavotte” (Violin II), the rousing “Jamaican Suite” by Kathy Blackwell (Cello I), Tchaikovsky’s “Sleeping Beauty Waltz” (Violin III), and Brahms’ exciting “Hungarian Dance” (Western Violins). The recital also featured a number of beautiful solos, highlighting members of each group. The soloists were: Rex Keller, Joey Breslin, Yeju Kim, Paul Rigsby-Tinch, Olivia Gaskill, Emma Cox, Curtis Lin, Laila Crowe, Sonia Conte and Chaney Rose. In addition to all of the wonderful student performances, pre-college faculty member, Steven Stewart performed a couple of solo fiddle selections, one of his unique specialties. This recital was a fantastic culmination of an entire year’s worth of hard (and fun!) work, and featured some truly breathtaking performances.
Pre-College Strings Program

February 5th
Congratulations to all the pre-college string students who participated in the Kentucky All-State Orchestra Festival.
Morgan Thomas, Principal Cellist in the Symphony Orchestra
Carly Shoulders, Assistant Concertmaster in the Commonwealth Orchestra
Rachel Wulff, Cello Section in the Commonwealth Orchestra
David Wiles, Cello Section in the Commonwealth Orchestra
Sydney Garrison, Viola Section in the Commonwealth Orchestra

February 8th
Andy Braddock gave a fantastic presentation at the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) Conference in Louisville, KY. Andy presented a session entitled “Teaching Vibrato with Ease.” In front of music teachers and students from around the state, Andy outlined the basic fundamentals of vibrato, shared useful vibrato exercises, and offered insight into common vibrato problems.
Ching-Yi Lin also gave a presentation titled “It’s All About the Bow” at the KMEA Conference. The fundamentals of the bow hold, the three basic bow strokes: martelé, détaché, and legato, and bow division exercises were discussed and demonstrated by Shmu’el and Anayah Ricketts. Attendees participated in a hands-on overview of the engaging games, strategies, and exercises used in our program to develop and reinforce comfortable, correct, and reliable right-hand technique and beautiful tone production. Shmu’el and Anayah Ricketts did a great job demonstrating these techniques!

Congratulations to WKU Pre-College Strings Program faculty, Alyna Bloecher, on her performance as Concertmaster with the Kentucky Intercollegiate Festival Orchestra.
AMERICAN STRINGS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014

March 6th
Kana Takahori, student of Alyna Bloecher, demonstrated shifting exercises and techniques for Mrs. Rebecca Henry.

March 7th
Christie Lin, student of Andy Braddock, demonstrated vibrato exercises and techniques for Mr. Jim Pryzgocki. Mr. Jim Pryzgocki is Professor of Viola and String Area Coordinator at the University of Wyoming.

Josh Propst, student of Sarah Berry, performed in the Eclectic Styles Master Class for Christian House.

March 8th
Ching-Yi Lin presented a session entitled “Practicing.” This session focused on home practicing as an essential part of a student’s growth and gave tips for helping teachers and parents to keep young players engaged and active while practicing. Ching-Yi also discussed ways to foster effective practicing and strategies for developing good practicing habits.

January
Sarah Berry spent two weeks teaching at the Festival International de Musica Pochote in Costa Rica. She taught private lessons, masterclasses, and sectionals during the festival—all in Spanish!

April 4-6
Ching-Yi Lin traveled to Baltimore to participate in the Violin Pedagogy Weekend hosted by Rebecca Henry of the Preparatory and the Peabody Institute of John Hopkins. The weekend was full of informative sessions and fantastic masterclasses by world-renowned pedagogues such as Victor Danchenko, Soovin Kim, and Mimi Zweig.
Pre-College Strings Program

Spring 2014 Masterclasses

**February 12th**
Dr. Brandon Christensen gave a wonderful masterclass for violin students from the WKU Music Department. Among other topics, he shared some fascinating insights about performance practice in Baroque music, one of his specialties. Dr. Christensen completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony-Brook University in New York in December 2002, where he studied violin with Mitchell Stern and studied chamber music with Timothy Eddy, Gilbert Kalish, and Julius Levine. He joined the faculty of Southeast Missouri State University in the fall of 2002, where he is currently a professor of violin and viola.

**February 13th**
Hilary Herndon gave a great masterclass for WKU viola students Landon Case and Katie Woosley. Hilary also coached pre-college string’s Violin III ensemble. They learned how to waltz to *Sleeping Beauty* and had a great time! Hilary has earned a national reputation for her brilliant playing, insightful teaching and creative programming. She has been heard on NPR and PBS and has collaborated with some of the world’s foremost musicians, including Carol Wincenc, James VanDemark and Itzhak Perlman, who described Hillary as “having it all… a gifted teacher and an excellent musician.” Ms. Herndon teaches at The University of Tennessee, Montecito Music Festival and the Viola Intensive Workshops.

**February 23rd**
Dr. Nick Curry, Assistant Professor of Cello at the University of North Florida, gave an inspiring lecture on intonation and practicing followed by a cello masterclass. Dr. Curry had excellent practice techniques and ideas to share with the students. He also stressed the importance of being nice, treating others professionally and reliability. He reminded the students that their peers will one day be their colleagues and the importance of building good relationships now. Performers for Dr. Curry’s masterclass included Shelly Burgess, Maxwell Conte, Josh Propst, and Morgan Thomas.

**March 1st**
Marjorie Garnier from Louisiana performed Henri Vieuxtemps “Capriccio” and gave a masterclass for our pre-college violinists. Nick Kang performed Hunters’ Chorus, Alyssa Keoishan performed Musette, and Millicent German performed Concerto No. 2, 3rd Movement by Seitz.

**March 5th**
Rebecca Henry of the Peabody Institute gave an inspiring masterclass to WKU college and pre-college students.

**Performers for this Masterclass**

- Kana Takahori, Dvořák Humoresque
- James Han, Seitz Concerto No.5: 1st Movement
Landon Case, Vaughn Williams Suite for Viola: Christmas Dance
Alyna Bloecher, Bach D minor Partita: Allemande and Courante

Rebecca Henry is a faculty member at The Peabody Conservatory, where she teaches violin and viola minor, violin pedagogy, and mentors students in the Masters of Performance/Pedagogy degree, and at The Peabody Preparatory, where she chairs the Preparatory String Department, teaches violin and viola, and is co-director of the Peabody Chamber Camp.

March 25th
Marilyn de Oliveira, Assistant Principal Cellist of the Oregon Symphony gave fantastic masterclasses to WKU pre-college and college students. Brazilian cellist Marilyn de Oliveira is the newest addition to the Oregon Symphony cello section, and she has been the assistant principal since September, 2009. Prior to joining the Oregon Symphony, Marilyn was a member of the San Antonio Symphony for three seasons, during which she was both a member of the section and acting assistant principal.

April 14th
Jun Iwasaki, Concertmaster for the Nashville Symphony, gave an inspiring masterclass for WKU college students. Our string students enjoyed watching Jun work with Liu on the Bach D minor Partita and with Bethany on the Haydn G major concerto. He focused on playing with good sound production, imagination, and enthusiasm, and he even got Liu to dance! After the performances, Jun also talked to us about what it is like to be a concertmaster of a major professional orchestra, gave us helpful tips on practicing, and encouraged our students to be well-rounded musicians! Jun was appointed Concertmaster of the Nashville Symphony by Music Director Giancarlo Guerrero at the beginning of the 2011/12 season, and formerly served as Concertmaster of the Oregon Symphony.

April 22nd
Dr. Felix Olschofka, Professor of Violin from the University of North Texas College of Music and special guest violin teacher, Hannelore Olschofka, from Germany, gave a wonderful masterclass for our college and pre-college students. Joey Breslin performed the Bach Musette beautifully!
Faculty Performances

February 14th
On Valentine’s Day, WKU string faculty with guests, Hilary Herndon and Brandon Christensen, gave a performance of German Masterworks for String Quintet at WKU. The program consisted of Mozart’s String Quintet in C major, K. 515, the Handel/Halvorsen Passacaglia for violin and viola, and Brahms’ String Quintet in G major, op. 111. This program was also performed at the Chamber Music Sundays at Three concert series in Cape-Girardeau, Missouri. It was a fun road trip for the WKU string faculty!

March 3rd
Ching-Yi Lin and pianist Dr. Kevin Class, from the University of Tennessee, gave an “informal” recital of the three Brahms Violin and Piano Sonatas in the WKU Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The recital was originally scheduled to be performed for the public, but unfortunately, WKU was closed due to snow. They also traveled with that program and performed in Sewanee University and University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

April 7th
WKU Faculty Andrew Braddock, Ching-Yi Lin, and Sarah Berry visited Eastern Kentucky University and performed a recital of string trio chamber music. The program consisted of string trios by J.S. Bach and Beethoven, and a duo for violin and cello by Kodály. Sarah Berry also presented a cello masterclass for EKU cello majors.

May 3rd
Pre-college faculty Alyna Bloecher performed a Solo Recital on violin and viola featuring works by Bach, Mozart, and Saint-Saëns.
Group Class Highlights

Hisham’s last group class

Moms playing Ant Song

Happy Easter musical eggs

Fun learning theory!

Memory check for Cello I

Cello Choir

Joey performing a solo
March 2nd
Anne Howard Waugh, 4 years old, and mother, Laura Waugh, performed for her pre-school class to celebrate the letter of the day, the letter “V”!

March 21st
Bella Durkee gave her kindergarten class at Cumberland Trace a violin lesson. She played for them and explained all of the parts of the violin.

March 22nd
Liyah Ricketts gave a fantastic Book 2 Violin recital in the FAC Recital Hall.

April 14th
Emma Cox portrayed Shinichi Suzuki in the second grade Living Wax Museum at Jody Richards Elementary School. She shared the highlights of Suzuki’s life, his accomplishments, and teaching methods with her classmates and their parents. She also performed “O Come, Little Children” on the violin.

April 24th
Emerson Carrigan, student of Andy Braddock, did an amazing job to help recruit for this summer’s String Explosion Camp at the WKU Summer Activities Fair.

May 6th
Abigail German and Curtis Lin graduated Suzuki Book I in group class.

Special Recognitions

Anne Howard and her mom

Liyah Ricketts

David Wiles

Morgan Thomas has been accepted to Governor’s School for the Arts and the Cincinnati Young Artists Chamber Music Workshop.

David Wiles will be attending the Cincinnati Young Artists Chamber Music Workshop this summer.

Bragging Rights
Special thanks to Vanessa Brown, who has played piano beautifully for the Beginner Violins and Violin I group classes this year.
Beginner Group
Shmu’el Ricketts
Honorable Mention: Anne Howard Waugh and Garrett Barr

Violin I
Chloe Pitcock
Honorable Mention:
Zoe Avery and Emma Cox

Violin II
Amy Pan
Honorable Mention: Joey Breslin

Violin III
Anayah Ricketts
Honorable Mention: Liyah Ricketts

Violin IV
James Han

Western Violins
Chaney Rose

Cello I
Eliana Ricketts
Honorable Mention: Curtis Lin

Winners and Honorable Mentions for the Spring Practice-A-Thon, 2014
As another strings season comes to an end, we look back and remember all of the fun times the kids have had together, the wonderful performances, and the many hours of practice put into learning new pieces and perfecting bow holds. We should also remember the teachers with much appreciation for the many hours that they have invested in our children to teach them the fine art of playing a stringed instrument. My daughter has had the privilege of studying with Hisham Groover for the past 2 years. From their very first lesson, Hisham made an effort to get to know Emily as a person. He built up a rapport and a relationship with her. Because he took the time to know her, he then knew how best to instruct her. Hisham gives 110% to everything that he does, and all of his students and families benefit from his efforts. He is an outstanding young man and it has been such a blessing to get to know him and to have him be such an important part of our daughter’s life. This was his last semester at WKU. As he closes this chapter in his life and begins a new one, I hope that he takes with him as many fond memories of his students and their families as we have of him. We wish you all the best in life Hisham; you were a gift to our family and to the WKU Pre-College Strings program. We are so thankful to have had this time together!
Vanessa Brown

When I was in second grade, I learned about string instruments in music classes. I was amazed by the violin and dreamed about one day playing in an orchestra. However, my mother told me I could take piano lessons instead. Then in fourth grade, a quintet from WKU came to play at my school and I was inspired once again. I started to play the violin, and still to this day, I believe it was the best decision I’ve ever made. I am so grateful to Sarah Berry for teaching me in my early years, and to Ching-Yi Lin for always being encouraging and loving. I have absolutely loved being a part of the WKU Pre-College Strings Program for the past six years. I will miss everyone tremendously and I will never regret a second of my time here. Thank you for everything.

Layne Guyer

Layne has played stringed instruments since she was six years old. After starting as a violin student in Kerry Sharer’s Bowling Green studio, she made the transition to viola nearly a year later. Layne has studied in the WKU Pre-College Strings program for eight years under Sarah Mitchell, Rebecca Reed-Lunn, and Andy Braddock. Layne has also taken lessons with Kathryn Plummer of Vanderbilt University, and participated in the Montecito International Music Festival in Santa Barbara, CA, studying with Ralph Fielding.

Layne was the Assistant Principal of The Symphony at WKU, where she was featured as a soloist in 2012, and traveled abroad to China in May 2013. Outside of classical music, Layne has played many different genres including folk, old-time fiddling, bluegrass, and rock. From 2005-2008, she played fiddle and mandolin with the Elm Street and Red River Fiddlers, competing in state fiddle competitions in Kentucky and Tennessee under the leadership of Julianna Waller-Swiebel. For the past three and a half years, she has been a member of a band, The Reneaus, and has had the privilege of playing for Michael McDonald, John Oates, Mike Wolfe (American Pickers), and Naomi Judd.

In addition to music, Layne enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and is also very active in her church youth group. She just ended an internship with The Symphony at WKU, as an assistant to the Executive Director, Jennifer Bryant. Layne will attend the University of Louisville this fall where she will study Music Therapy and continue her viola studies.

Elizabeth Hook

I began playing the violin because my parents wanted me to, but it didn’t take long for me to fall in love with the instrument. I started out in fourth grade, discovered that I loved to play music, and progressed from there. I love to play the violin because I love to listen to music.

When I play, I feel like I am giving something to others that they can enjoy. One of the many reasons why I love music is that it allows us a way to share our emotions, stories and experiences with other people. The violin gives me a way to express things that I would otherwise be unable to express. I have loved practicing and improving over the past nine years, and am grateful for everything I have gained through playing the violin. It has really been an amazing experience. I’m excited to continue growing and learning about the violin and music in years to come, and plan to continue making music one of the most important aspects of my life.
**Maya Huss**

My name is Maya Huss. For the past 8 years I have had the great experience of playing cello. I started in 4th grade, after being inspired by a performance at my elementary school. After playing cello in my school orchestras, I decided that I wanted to start taking private lessons so that I could grow as a cellist and have the opportunity to play on my own. After a year of cello lessons, I joined the WKU Pre-College Strings program and became a member of the cello choir. Out of my 8 years of playing cello, being in the WKU Pre-College strings cello choir was definitely one of my top highlights. Aside from playing cello, I also played piano and was involved in many other extracurricular activities at Greenwood High School. I participated in student council, the soccer team, the track team, and the swimming team. After receiving the Woodford R. Porter scholarship, I decided that the University of Louisville would be my home for the next 4 years. I plan on majoring in bioengineering at UofL.

**Rachael Wulff**

I started playing cello in 4th grade as part of the strings program taught by Dr. Scott at Potter Gray. The next year I began private lessons with Mrs. Berry. Nine years later, I’m still loving it! Being in the orchestra at school has provided many laughs and fun field trips. But it has also taught me many life lessons. As I go out into the world and get gigs playing at churches or events, the skills I developed have served me well. I have learned to be responsible, think ahead, and pace myself. Playing cello forced me outside of my comfort zone. Mrs. Berry has been a cello mother to me, nurturing my growth and always looking out for me. I am so grateful for that. I dance and played soccer as well, but I have always felt a part of the strings community at WKU. I loved attending Symphony concerts and imagining myself on the big stage someday. It came true: I went to All-State Orchestra two years and performed in Louisville. Cello has been a big part of my life, and I am thankful that Dr. Scott came to my elementary school and introduced me to such a beautiful instrument. I had no idea then what playing cello would come to mean to me. It has created many fond memories and cool experiences. I am excited to continue sharing music with others and enjoying it myself as I go to Wellesley College in Boston this fall!

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**An Interview with Chaney Rose**

**What do you love about playing the violin?**

As a musician, I have the ability to connect with someone of any age, race, or status. I love being able to create music that brings people together.

**How has learning the Suzuki method helped you?**

I started playing when I was four years old using the Suzuki Method. Playing by ear has been such a blessing. Anything I can sing, I can play! I love “sounding out” songs and playing improvisations with my church praise band. But more than that, the Suzuki method demonstrates the importance of perfecting the basics before moving on. The Suzuki method taught me how to study: repetition, repetition, repetition.

**What is something you have learned from playing?**

Perseverance. When you first get a ten page concerto and start playing through it, you can’t help but think, “I’ll never be able to play all of this.” But, you can practice a small section every day, maybe five measures, until they are easy. And then you add five more measures and they start to add up pretty quickly. In the end, a task that seemed impossible has been accomplished.

**Has violin helped you win any awards?**

Yes, playing violin has helped me win scholarships as the 2014 Kentucky Junior Miss. In 2013, I was accepted to Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts for Violin Performance and was awarded scholarships at several colleges through playing the violin. I was also a part of Kentucky’s Governor’s Scholar Program.
Parents’ Pics

Olivia Gaskill

Andy, Kana, and Alyna

Maxwell Conte

Emerson Carrigan

Dress rehearsal

Spring Solo Recital

Chloe Pitcock
Dear Parents,

Thank you for a wonderful year with us in the WKU Pre-College Strings Program. I want to invite you all to participate in our 9th Summer of String Explosion! The camp will take place in our beautiful new music building, July 21-26.

The Twinklers session of the camp is for brand-new beginners and for young students who have just started to play and are not reading music. The age range for the Twinklers session is around 4 to 8 years old. Royal Music is offering a $10 rental for the week of camp for new students. This session is from 9:00am – 11:30am daily and the tuition is $75 for the week.

The Orchestra session is for kids who have been playing for at least a year and have experience reading music. This session will be divided into three orchestras: beginning (Suzuki Book 1 and 2 level), intermediate and advanced (high school). This camp includes lunch every day in the new Downing Student Union on campus. In addition to playing in orchestra, the students will have masterclasses and lessons with Ching-Yi Lin, Andy Braddock, Patrick O’Rourke and myself. And as always, we will have some non-musical fun too!

In addition to our wonderful WKU string teachers, Susan Mullen, Patrick O’Rourke and Mary Boronow will be joining the faculty. Ms. Mullen was the music director of the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra for 10 years and is an energetic and fun violin and orchestra teacher. Patrick O’Rourke and Mary Boronow are string teachers in the Bowling Green City Schools. Mr. O’Rourke will be teaching a bass masterclasses and Mrs. Boronow will lead the elementary orchestra. I’m thrilled to have these teachers join us!

Registration deadline is June 10 for a guaranteed t-shirt. To register and for more information, visit the camp website at www.wku.edu/ll/youth/strings.

We hope to see you this summer at String Explosion!

Sarah Berry

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Thank You

I would like to thank President Gary A. Ransdell, Dean David Lee of Potter College, and Dr. Scott Harris of the Music Department for their support of the WKU Pre-College Strings Program.

Heartfelt thanks also go to Lowell Guthrie, Karen Dinwiddie, Marcus Dukes, and Gail Simone for their invaluable assistance to the program.

Finally, I would like to thank our faculty members Sarah Berry, Alyna Bloecher, Andy Braddock, and Hisham Groover. You are the Pre-College Strings Program, and without you, none of this would be possible. I am inspired by you on a daily basis, and you give me the desire and energy to further our shared vision.

Ching-Yi Lin
Now taking registrations for

STRING EXPLOSION!

2014

July 21-26

For more information, call 270-745-1912 or go to wku.edu/ll/youth/strings.