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IVCI announces cellist Brandon Leonard as the 2024 ENCORE Chamber Music Institute scholarship recipient

INDIANAPOLIS – The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) is pleased to announce cellist **Brandon Leonard** as the scholarship recipient for the 2024 ENCORE Chamber Music Institute, where he will study with 2014 IVCI Gold Medalist Jinjoo Cho, the institute’s founder and Artistic Director.



“Brandon’s exceptional technical skills on the instrument, combined with his mature musicianship and emotional dedication, position him as a promising young artist to keep an eye on,” says Cho. “ENCORE is excited to provide Brandon with an invaluable learning opportunity alongside world-class artist-teachers this summer, all made possible by the support of IVCI.”

“Having the opportunity to work closely with a seasoned concert artist like Jinjoo is a musically transformational experience,” says IVCI Executive Director Glen Kwok. “The Indianapolis is thrilled to make this possible for Brandon.”

Leonard, 18, hails from Stone Mountain, Georgia and currently studies with Karen Freer, Acting Associate/Assistant Principal Cello of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. He has attended summer music camps at the Atlanta Chamber Music Festival, the Tanglewood Junior Strings Intensive Program, the Center Stage Strings Program, and the Morningside Music Bridge Festival.

He is the First Prize Winner of the 26th annual National Sphinx Competition, the Georgia Philharmonic Samuel Fordis Young Artists Competition, and the Hilton Head Concerto Competition. In 2023, he received Third Prize at the Ronald Sachs International Music Competition, and was a Semi-Finalist in the 2022 Johansen International String Competition. As a member of the Sycamore Trio, he won First Prize at WDAV’s Young Chamber Musicians Competition and Second Prize at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2022.

This fall, Leonard will study with Natasha Brofsky at The Juilliard School as a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship.

In 2022, the IVCI created this scholarship aimed at giving Black or Latinx students a unique opportunity to specifically study with one of the IVCI’s illustrious Laureates at a summer festival. Previous recipients include violinists Bethlehem Kelley (2022) and Javier F. Torres Delgado (2023).

For more information regarding this scholarship, visit [ENCORE Chamber Music Institute](https://www.violin.org/encore).

Visit www.violin.org or call (317) 637-4574 to learn more.

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The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) recognizes, rewards and promotes the world’s finest young classical violinists and encourages understanding, appreciation and support of the violin repertoire by a large and diverse audience. The IVCI utilizes its world prominence to bring international attention to Indianapolis and maintains its efforts to be a visible and collaborative member of the arts communities in Indianapolis and Indiana.

For information about the IVCI, visit www.violin.org.

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