

## **Francis Tsai, Violin**

Thirteen-year-old Francis Tsai began his violin studies at the age of five.

As the First Prize winner of the 2016 Samuel Fordis Young Artist Concerto Competition, he appeared as a soloist with the Georgia Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also the First Prize winner of the 2017 Lois Pickard Scholarship Competition, Fourth Prize winner of the 2019 Blount-Slawson Young Artist Concerto Competition, and First Prize winner of the 2019 Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition. In addition, he has participated in the Bowdoin International Music Festival in Brunswick, Maine.

Francis performs frequently in retirement homes with his siblings, playing the violin, and sometimes the viola. His primary teachers are Jeffrey Flaniken of Samford University in Birmingham, AL, and Sergiu Schwartz of Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA.

When Francis is away from his classical instruments, he is passionate about playing the drums. His favorite school subjects are math and science. He also enjoys swimming, venturing into the woods, and listening to the rock band “Newsboys”.