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**The New England Philharmonic Announces Sammy Andonian
Winner of 19th Annual Young Artist Competition**

Will perform first movement of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto at December 15th Family Concert



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS | The [New England Philharmonic](#) (NEP), under the direction of [Richard Pittman](#), has named 15 year-old violinist **Sammy Andonian** from Lincoln, Massachusetts winner of their **19th Annual Young Artist Competition**. Andonian will perform the first movement of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the NEP, at their annual family concert "[A Distant Journey](#)" on December 15th at the Tsai Performance Center. The concert will also feature John Adams' *Tromba Iontana*; Silvestre Revueltas' *Janitzio* and Richard Cornell's *Umai's Journey* featuring the **Boston Children's Choir** and narrated by **Renee White, Dean of Simmons College**.

Sammy Andonian began his musical studies playing the cello at age four, and soon after began playing the violin at age seven. Now fifteen, Sammy studies with violinist John Holland, and cellist Mike Reynolds. As a young musician, Sammy has won numerous awards, and was recently the first place winner in the Walden Chamber Players' Young Artists Competition. As an orchestral musician, Sammy has been a member of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras since 2008, and is now both a concertmaster and a principal cellist for the Boston Youth Symphony, their premier ensemble. Last year, Sammy was the principal cellist of the MMEA's 2013 All-State Orchestra, and was also a member of New England Conservatory's Youth Philharmonic Orchestra.

Richard Pittman, NEP's Music Director recalled Sammy's audition, "...his tone is very beautiful and the variety of tonal colors and phrasing in his performance was very special and remarkable for a person of his age." NEP's [Concertmaster Danielle Maddon](#), who also served on the judges panel, was impressed by Sammy's "...brilliant playing... full of heart." The competition's runner-up is Tristan Flores, a 14 year-old violinist from Lexington, Massachusetts who performed Saint-Saëns: "Introduction et Rondo capriccioso."

About the New England Philharmonic Now in its 37th season, the New England Philharmonic (NEP) under the direction of Richard Pittman, is internationally renowned for its daring programming encompassing both contemporary and traditional works. In 2013, the volunteer orchestra was awarded its 9th ASCAP award for Adventurous Programming and named Gunther Schuller Composer Laureate. In 2012 the *Boston Globe* named NEP's Britten *War Requiem* as one of the 10 best Classical Music Performances of the year. The orchestra's illustrious past includes the installation of three landmark programs. In 1983 NEP became the first orchestra of its size to support a Composer in Residence, introduce a Call for Scores Program, and a Young Artists Competition, legacies that endure today. Since 1997, NEP has had the privilege of serving as the orchestra in residence at Simmons College.

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