

## Two fundraisers with personal connections

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For 17-year-old Ottawa pianist Silvie Cheng, the fundraising concert she has organized for the Ottawa Hospital Foundation Saturday has a personal connection.

Cheng, a Lisgar Collegiate student and a prizewinner at the Canadian Music Competitions and the Kiwanis Festival, has organized a concert at the First Unitarian Church to raise funds for the Ottawa Hospital Foundation's campaign for a new cancer treatment centre. Cheng's mother, Hermina, is a breast cancer survivor.

"I know firsthand how frustrating it can be for families to have to wait for cancer treatments," Cheng says. "The care that my mother received at the hospital was exceptional, and I believe that every family battling with the disease deserves the fastest care possible."

Admission to the concert is by donation, and Cheng is delighted that Scotiabank has agreed to match every dollar raised.

At the concert, to be hosted by CBC Radio producer Jill LaForty, Cheng will perform the first movement of Schumann's *Piano concerto in A minor* with the Lisgar Collegiate Senior Orchestra and conductor Richard Arrigo. Cheng and the orchestra received a standing ovation when they performed it at Centrepointe Theatre recently in the Kiwanis Festival highlights concert. The orchestra will also perform the first movement of Dvorák's *Symphony No. 9*.

Cheng is also a member of Trio Con Brio, with 14-year-old violinist Mitchell Gibbens-Schneider and 15-year-old cellist Daniel Parker. The trio will perform the first three movements of Dvorák's "*Dumky*" Trio and the first movement of Mendelssohn's *Trio in D minor*. The young musicians will perform the pieces at the Ontario Provincial Music Festival in Toronto next month.

Cheng and her 10-year-old brother Bryan, a cellist, will also perform pieces by Haydn and Massenet. As well, the Trio Scherzando (Bryan Cheng, violinist Jeremy Gibbens-Schneider and pianist Brandon Zhao) will perform music by Mozart and Peter Martin. Saturday's concert starts at 2 p.m. at the church, 30 Cleary Ave. Admission is by donation. Information: 613-228-8758.