

# Ottawa student trio takes top prize at national festival



THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

[More from The Ottawa Citizen](#)

Published on: August 19, 2008 | Last Updated: August 19, 2008 1:23 PM EDT

Ottawa's Trio con Brio has returned from the 2008 National Music Festival in Edmonton with the first-prize award in the chamber music category.

Pianist Silvie Cheng, 17, cellist Daniel Parker, 16, and violinist Mitchell Gibbens-Schneider, 15, were ranked as the best of four chamber groups that competed at the national event. The National Festival includes competitions in seven categories.

The first-place recipients in each category take home \$1,500. The Ottawa trio performed music by Dvorak and Mendelssohn for a panel of judges that included violinist Andrew Dawes and trumpet player Jens Lindemann.

The competition took place Aug. 14 and 15 in Edmonton and the winners performed Aug. 16 as part of gala concert at Edmonton's acoustically superb Winspear Centre.

If you've ever attended a concert at the Edmonton hall, you have an idea of what Ottawa is missing in lacking a similar hall. The Friends of the Concert Hall, the group that is now backing the community concert hall project on Elgin Street, is trying to change that, and will be announcing a major fundraising campaign next month. Those interested in supporting the campaign can find information at [www.theconcerthall.ca](http://www.theconcerthall.ca).

It was a feat for Trio con Brio just to get to Edmonton. To make it to the national finals, student musicians had to receive a first-place standing at the local and provincial competitions and had to be recommended by adjudicators to represent their province at the national event.

Coached by NACO violinist Donnie Deacon, Trio con Brio has performed extensively on stages around Ottawa, including performances at the Chamber Music Festival.

