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STEVEN ROVITZ SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Stephen Rovitz Scholarship was established by the Weekend of Chamber Music (WCM) in 2003 to honor Stephen Rovitz, the former Monticello Central School Music Director on his retirement, and for his 33-year contribution to the district.



Ruby Hong, a June 2011 MHS graduate, is the 10th recipient of the award. WCM Artistic Director Judith Pearce presented the \$500 scholarship to her on July 24 during the 10th Anniversary celebration of the WCM Summer Festival Intern Program at the Nesin Theater in Monticello.

A participant in the WCM Artist Coaching Project throughout her high school years at MHS, Ruby is a pianist, and studied chamber music at the school with Ann Trombley and Nancy Wegrzyn. The Rovitz award is based primarily on their assessment of a student's academic levels, and most importantly their level of involvement in and contribution to the MHS chamber music program.

Another part of the requirement for the scholarship, is that they have to write an essay about their chamber music experience in school. Part of Ruby's essay is quoted below:

"Chamber music provides [learning] from one another and allows students to challenge their social, listening, thinking, and performing skills. It allows students to work in small groups and to think for themselves..."

Chamber music...was a learning opportunity that did not bind my thoughts or abilities, instead it furthered them. The benefits of chamber music are that students can always improve and they are always learning; it is a continuous and never ending process. Chamber music has allowed me to feel the concept of unity. It has always been there for me ..."

Ms. Pearce, flutist and artist coach for the MHS music program, said, "While I believe that Ruby Hong will be studying biology, my impression from all the years we've worked with her, including as a Summer Festival intern, is that music is important to her, and that she'll search for opportunities to continue to play chamber music."

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