We would like to share with you some of the awards and special recognitions that students and faculty from the School of Music have received in recent months.

Our pianists continue to participate in, and receive recognition for their performances:

- Kristi Chiou was a winner of the Pasadena Bach Festival on April 11.
- Jennifer Juang received First Place in the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity competition on April 17, piano category.

The Belden Piano Quartet, of which APU School of Music piano instructor Hannah Yi is a member, was recently named Chamber Musicians in Residence at the Pine Mountain Music Festival in Michigan. This great honor was awarded to this newly-formed chamber ensemble and their responsibilities will include performing in 7 concerts across the state. APU Professor Hannah Yi will also be providing master-classes to the summer participants at the festival.

Numerous awards were received at the Southern California Music Teachers Association of California Solo Piano Competition on April 18 by School of Music students. This competition is one of the most serious competitions for California students, who represent USC, UCLA, and many other schools and universities:

- Anna Nizhegorodtseva received First Place
- Dick Yeung and Kristi Chiou received Third Place
- Mac Lee, Jesse Reyes, and Maria Wietrzynska received Honorable Mention
Richard Cassarino, graduate student in Performance on Double Bass, has been accepted to the prestigious Aspen Music Festival for summer of 2010. The eight-week long festival takes place during June and July. Acceptance to the festival is contingent upon being accepted into an artist-faculty member's studio. Richard auditioned for and was accepted into the studio of Bruce Bransby, professor of bass at Indiana University and former principal bassist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Applications are received from around the world. Richard was one of nine applicants selected from a pool of forty. Many alumni of the Aspen Music Festival are well known performers including Joshua Bell, Lynn Harrell, Renée Fleming, Itzhak Perlman, Leonard Slatkin and Dawn Upshaw.

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