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42nd Annual Stulberg International String Competition Welcome

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42nd Annual Stulberg International String Competition Welcome
President John M. Dunn
May 13, 2017

- Good evening, and Welcome to the 42nd annual Stulberg International String Competition. That's a welcome to those with us here in Western Michigan University's Dalton Center Recital Hall, of course, but it's also a heartfelt welcome to our worldwide audience viewing the event through live Web streaming. We're glad you've joined us.
- One of the longest-running music competitions in the nation, the Stulberg International String Competition was founded in 1975 in memory of WMU faculty member and University Symphony conductor Julius Stulberg. A few members of the Stulberg family have returned to Kalamazoo for the competition and we are so pleased to welcome them back to their home community.
- This competition is a true community effort that has grown and flourished over the past 42 years. Our thanks go to the many people who have served on the board and as volunteers during that period. The competition also owes a great debt to such partner organizations as the WMU School of Music, the Kalamazoo Symphony and its Junior Symphony, the Kalamazoo Bach Festival, Crescendo Academy of Music, Suzuki Academy of Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids Symphony, and others. Thank you.

This year's competition is very special. The 12 young people who competed here today were chosen from a record number of 170 applicants from around the world—Australia to Uzbekistan. It's our good fortune this evening to hear the six finalists who have been selected by the panel of judges. They follow in the footsteps of musicians like Joshua Bell, who won the competition in 1981 on his

second try—but won Kalamazoo's heart on his first try the previous year at age 12. This week, he had a simple message for 2017 competitors. "Be yourself, and let it rip."

Please enjoy the evening. Thank you for being with us and showing your support for these talented musicians.