

May 30th, 2017

Dear Friends of the NACO

I am honoured and thankful to accept the Friends of the NACO Senior Scholarship – your continued support has helped ease my path to a career in music performance!

I have just completed a very successful first year at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where I am studying violin performance with Grigory Kalinovsky, in addition to an outside field study in biology. I had the opportunity to perform in a chamber orchestra with Joshua Bell, and to play Principal Second in two orchestras, led by many of the greatest conductors I have ever worked with. Some highlights include full productions of *The Nutcracker* and *Peter Grimes*, as well as Strauss' *Alpine Symphony*, and Brahms' *Symphony No. 4*.

I was fortunate enough to have been selected to attend the Music Academy of the West summer program in Santa Barbara CA, where I will study with Glenn Dicterow, Kathleen Winkler, and Jorja Fleezanis.

Thank you for your financial support, which makes these experiences possible for students like me.

Sincerely,

Ethan Balakrishnan
Ottawa, ON