

# Chappaqua Middle Schooler to Perform at Carnegie Hall

By Martin Wilbur

It took just seven years for Angela Sun to go from sitting down at the piano for the first time to playing at Carnegie Hall.

That is where Sun, a sixth-grader at Chappaqua's Robert E. Bell Middle School, will be on Saturday after capturing a first-place prize at the qualifying recitals of the Golden Key Music Festival in Princeton, N. J., in March.

Who could fault the unassuming 12-year-old for showing plenty of emotion when she learned she was headed to the Weill Recital Hall to join some of the best young musicians in the country?

"When I found out, I was psyched, I was jumping up and down," Sun said.

Although Chopin is among her favorites, she will play Beethoven's Opus 10 No. 2 sonata on Saturday, the same piece Sun played to earn her spot in the Gold recitals. Saturday's concert features those who finished first at the qualifying event.

The rules of the festival required each performer to complete their pieces in less than five minutes, forcing Sun to choose the Beethoven piece.

Sun has been taking piano lessons since she turned five years old. That is when her mother, An Huang, an assistant physiology professor at New York Medical College in Valhalla, and her father, Dong Sun, an associate professor at the college, brought home a piano.



Angela Sun, a sixth-grader at Robert E. Bell Middle School, is set to perform among the best young musicians this Saturday at Carnegie Hall. She is pictured here with her teacher, Monica Ohuchi.

Sun said there never was any pressure from her parents to play, much less excel to the extent that she has.

"When I first got a piano, my mom just told me it was for fun," said Sun.

The young girl found the piano to be so

*continued on page 2*

*continued from page 1*

much fun that she soon began taking lessons, the last two years at Music in Chappaqua under the tutelage of teacher Monica Ohuchi. Sun said she practices about two hours a day, more when she doesn't have school.

Janet Angier, the director of Music in Chappaqua, said she attributes Sun's success to her dexterity, agility and work ethic.

"She's had to work hard, but because she's willing to sit down for two hours a day it puts her head and shoulders above the crowd," Angier said.

Sun admits that sometimes it has been hard to discipline herself, especially when she first started playing because the basics needed to be learned. However, after spending long hours of practice to reach a certain aptitude, she has found it easier and more enjoyable to continue to put in the time.

"It was hard in the beginning, sometimes I didn't feel like it. It's fun once you get past" playing with one finger, said Sun. "When you play you feel like you are ac-

complishing something."

Sun, who also plays violin with her school orchestra, acknowledges she gets tense before she performs at a recital. Her hands get clammy and there are butterflies, but once she begins her piece the nerves and the sweaty palms disappear.

Huang said she has always stressed that her daughter doesn't have to come out on top in competitions.

"I told her you don't always have to win, but do your best," she said. "There is always a lesson."

The Golden Key Music Festival was created several years ago by classical music patrons who were determined to provide top young musicians between of five and 21 years old a chance to play some of the most prestigious concert stages in the United States. Each performer must complete their selection within five minutes from memory.

In addition to the gold award recital at Carnegie Hall this weekend, there are also silver and bronze recitals in Philadelphia and Lawrenceville, N. J., respectively.