

## **PRESS RELEASE**

July 20, 2012

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR MICHAEL WANG OF NORTH CALDWELL FOR BEING NAMED TO THE N. J. ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA**



Freeholder Vice President Patricia Sebold of Livingston (left) presented the Board's Commendation to West Essex Regional High School student Michael Wang of North Caldwell, congratulating him for having been named to the New Jersey All-State Orchestra. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – During its Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, meeting held at Livingston Town Hall, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored cellist Michael Wang of North Caldwell, a student at West Essex Regional High School, for having been named to the New Jersey All-State Orchestra. The Board's presentation was presented to Michael by Freeholder Vice President Patricia Sebold of Livingston.

Michael competed with student musicians from throughout New Jersey in a rigorous audition and selection process conducted by the New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA), which is a federated State Unit of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), a voluntary, non-profit organization representing all phases of music education in schools, colleges, universities and teacher-education institutions. First, he auditioned successfully for the Region 1 High School Orchestra in January and performed with the group in February. He then went on to successfully audition for the New Jersey All-State Orchestra on Saturday, March 17, 2012. By virtue of his

selection as a member of the All-State Orchestra, 14-year old Michael was recognized as being among the top 16 high school cellists in the State of New Jersey. He will perform with the orchestra in November following the NJEA Convention in Atlantic City and also at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

At West Essex High School, Michael is a member of the Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble, and is currently the principal cellist. He also performs with other musical organizations outside of school, including the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra, where he has also served as the principal cellist, and with the Music of China Orchestra at his church, the Chinese Christian Church of New Jersey in Parsippany. In addition to his musical activities, he is an Honor Roll student, was elected Vice President of the study body and serves on his Class Council. He is also a member of the West Essex High School Tennis Team where he plays first doubles, is an avid reader, loves to run and volunteers through his church. Michael is the son of his proud parents, Rey and Su Wang, and the brother of his older sister, Lynnli.

“I am very lucky today to be here and to receive this award for all my hard work”, said Michael, thanking the Board for recognizing his talent. He then went on to say, “And I’m so grateful for my parents for chauffeuring me around to lessons and practices and all my other activities... it’s just so much work and I don’t thank them enough.” To cap off the presentation, Michael entertained the audience by performing his favorite audition piece, the Prelude from J. S. Bach’s “Cello Suite No. 1”.

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