

**Sophia Zhou** is a 15-year-old violinist and a 10th-grade student at The Hockaday School in Dallas, Texas. She began studying the violin at the age of five and has since developed a deep love for classical music and expressive performance. Sophia currently studies with Ms. Eunsong Koh and has also benefited from the guidance of Mr. Charles Krigbaum, both of whom have played important roles in her artistic growth.

Sophia's musicianship has been recognized through various honors. She is a grand prize winner of the 2026 Vernell Gregg Young Artists Competition and the 2026 Collin County Young Artists Competition, and first prize winner of the 2026 Juanita Miller Concerto Competition. She also won first place in the 2025 Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra (GDYO) Concerto Competition, the 2024 Dallas Symphonic Festival Concerto Competition, and the 2023 GDYO Philharmonic Concerto Competition. Additional honors include second prize in the 2025 TMTA Solo Performance Competition, alternate placements in both the 2025 Texas MTNA Senior String Competition and the 2024 Texas MTNA Junior String Competition, first prize in the 2022 Collin County Young Artists Competition (Junior String), and second prize in the 2022 Vernell Gregg Young Artists Competition (Junior Division).

In 2025, Sophia performed as a featured soloist with the Plano Symphony Orchestra in 14 live concerts, serving more than 18,000 students across North Texas. She was also invited to perform at the 2024 Suzuki Association of the Americas' National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. An active orchestral musician, Sophia serves as Concertmaster of the 2026 TPSMEA All-State Orchestra and is a member of the 2025 and 2026 TMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra.

Outside of music, Sophia enjoys tennis, cooking with her grandparents, dancing K-pop, and spending time with family and friends.