

Emma S. Pooler, Violinist

Emma (age 14) is an incoming freshman at Navarre High School, with dual-enrollment at Pensacola State College. She has been studying and performing violin for nine years. She trains under Dr. Leonid Yavnoskiy, Professor and Director of Strings and Orchestra, Dr. Grier Williams, School of Music, University of West Florida (UWF), and Concertmaster, Pensacola Symphony Orchestra. Emma performs weekly as an intern with the First Baptist Church Pensacola Orchestra.

In March 2022, Emma competed in the PMTA Concerto Competition held at UWF for Florida District 1, and was awarded First Place for her rendition of Bach's Concerto in A Minor. From there she advanced to the Florida State Strings Competition held at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where again she was selected as the Winner of the Junior Concerto State Strings Competition.

Emma was accepted and invited to attend musical training at the InterHarmony Music Festival in July 2022, in Acqui Terme, Italy, to receive some of the best strings instruction available to students, studying with an internationally-recognized artist faculty, and meeting musical colleagues from around the globe.

In June of 2024, she was accepted to attend the Summer Violin Institute, Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University, and in November 2024 Emma was recognized as the Alternate Winner for the State of Florida during the 2024 MTNA Junior String Competition.

In January 2025 she was selected for the All-State Concert, Tampa, Florida and she served as Concert Master for the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra Youth PLAY OUT, 2024-25, and Pensacola Symphony Youth Chamber Strings 2025.

Emma resides in Navarre, Florida, with her parents John and Inja, along with her older brothers Matthew and Jason.