



Sophia Zhang is a 16-year-old violinist from Tenafly, New Jersey. She studies with Elizabeth Chang in the Preparatory Division of the Juilliard Pre-College Division at The Juilliard School in New York City. Earlier this year, she was named a national winner of the YoungArts competition.

Sophia regularly performs in orchestral settings and has held leadership roles including principal and assistant concertmaster. She performed with the Young Artists' Orchestra for six weeks at the Tanglewood Festival in 2023 and has been a member of the New York Youth Symphony since 2022. The orchestra's 2023 recording received the Grammy Award for Best Orchestral Performance, the first time a youth orchestra had received the award.

Sophia is also a From the Top artist alumni, and played in the 2025 season on Show 463. Last year, she was invited to fly to LA as part of a collaboration between the program and USC's Brain and Creativity Institute. In 2024, she attended the Heifetz International Music Institute as a scholarship recipient.

Outside of music, Sophia has spent several summers interning in research laboratories. At Columbia University, she worked on a heart preservation system designed to improve transplant viability. The previous summer, she contributed to the world's first analysis of fruit fly sperm orientation, and her work was acknowledged in a publication supported by the National Institutes of Health.

She also volunteers weekly as an assistant in the Neurology Wing at Hackensack Meridian Health, where she shadows physicians and helps care for patients with neurological disorders.