

Trinity students never fail to impress. Then there are those who just don't know when to quit

Clever Young Things

As children, they were impossibly precocious, picking up the violin as a tot, or, barely into puberty, deciding to save the bears, the apes, the children – indeed, the world. Nothing seemed too huge for them, be it opening a modelling agency, writing a children's book, or tackling an operatic aria. Two of them set their sights on the Rhodes Scholarship and came up with the prize. (Only two Rhodes Scholarships are awarded in Ontario each year.)

- They are as impressive a bunch of students as Trinity has ever seen, and they are profiled here by two outstanding student writers.
- It would all be too outrageous, if it didn't do the Old School so proud.

BY ANDREW MILLS & GRAHAM F. SCOTT

Catherine Manoukian





“I actually worked into the early hours to finish a paper the night before my Toronto Symphony Orchestra debut in 2000”

PHOTOGRAPH: IAN OTIS

Different Strokes

“There’s a kind of insanity in the moment of being on stage,” says violinist Catherine Manoukian (OT4). “It’s a kind of strange high that you get. I’m completely hooked.”

The daughter of two musicians, Catherine appeared set from the time she gave up crayons to become a professional violinist. At 12, she played Paganini’s Violin Concerto No. 1 with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, her orchestral debut.

The Toronto native has since shot to international classical-music stardom and is in high demand as a soloist with some of the finest orchestras and chamber music groups in Europe, Asia and North America. This summer she played in Japan with the Tokyo Philharmonic and Osaka New Century orchestras.

Having completed her musical studies under the late Dorothy Delay at New York’s Juilliard School of Music while still a high school student at York Mills Collegiate, Catherine, now 22, is pursuing a specialist degree in history with a major in philosophy; she has a particular interest in aesthetics and the 19th-century history of Germany and Austria.

Asked how she manages to practise four or five hours every day while maintaining excellent marks, she says she relies on the classic student tactic of caffeine and all-nighters. “I actually worked into the early hours to finish a paper the night before my Toronto Symphony Orchestra debut in 2000.” – *A.M.*