

Duxbury Clipper

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Alex Hernandez



Itsva Hernandez

Alex Hernandez, a violist and a ninth grader at Dexter School, and Itsva Hernandez, a violinist and an eleventh grader at Rivers Conservatory, both of Duxbury, are two of 44 Project STEP music students who were recently honored with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. The award is the signature program of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Chosen from a national pool of more than 350 nominations and 50 finalists, Project STEP is one of 12 programs across the country to receive the award, which is the highest honor for such programs in the United States. Project STEP (String Training and Education Program) was recognized for its rigorous, year-round classical string training program for under-represented minorities that invites them into a world of classical music that might not otherwise be available to them. Studies show long term music education programs, such as the one Project STEP provides, increases overall academic achievement, literacy and language abilities, communication, graduation rates, and college enrollment, as well as performance skills, and cultural awareness.