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# YOUNG FIDDLER ON THE MAKE WALKS AWAY WITH FIRST PRIZE

By GERALDINE TANG

**F**OR young schoolgirl Lim Shue Churn, it is an ardent love for serious classical music and the violin that makes her world go around.

At 12, she is already promising "fiddler on the loose," and this is no wonder as both her parents are keen musicians themselves.

She showed her mettle at the finals of the first Singapore Violin Festival held recently, playing Henry Wieniawski's Polonaise Brillante—a difficult piece for a musician of her age—and walked away with the first prize in the solo open division.

Fifteen finalists took part in the festival organised by Yamaha Music School.

As the first violin leader in the National Schools Orchestra and the People's Association Chinese Orchestra, her many stage appearances with them stood her in good stead for the competition.

"That was my first time playing in a competition but with the

many public performances I had with the orchestras, the thought of facing a big crowd all alone didn't scare me in the least. I was only giddily excited when I knew I was going to win right from the start," she said in an interview yesterday.

The eldest child of Mr. Lim Tiat Guan, the PA Chinese Orchestra conductor, Shue Churn started with the piano at five, but switched to violin two years later at her father's insistence.

## 'Perfect pitch'

"He told me that I had a perfect pitch which goes better with a violinist. Anyway, I prefer the violin as its tone colour sounds quite like the human voice," she said.

As a student of Dunman Government Chinese Middle School, she is an all-rounder who apportions her time among studies, music and sports.

Shue Churn will perform again with PA Chinese Orchestra in a concert tonight at the Singapore Conference Hall.