

South Whidbey Record
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Young South Whidbey star to shine with Seattle Symphony

By Wendy McKellips

Among the approximately 100 musicians performing at the Seattle Symphony concert at the high school auditorium this month will be one of South Whidbey's own.

South Whidbey High School senior Jessica Johnson will play cello during Mozart's overture to *Le Nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro) at the symphony's Whidbey Island concert Friday, March 26.

For the past 35 years, the symphony has extended an invitation to student musicians to join it when the symphony visits area communities.

"I was hoping to be chosen for this," Johnson said. "It's very exciting."

She has played cello for the past 11 years, ever since she was in the first grade. She started playing violin in kindergarten. She enjoys the cello for its sound - which can resonate like the human voice - and for its size.

"You almost feel like you can dance with it, it's as large as a person." Johnson said