

Top violin prize for nine-year-old

Samuel Tan beats rivals almost four times his age to win the grand Postacchini Prize in Italy

PUBLISHED ON JUN 23, 2014 7:11 PM



Young violinist Samuel Tan enjoys going for competitions because they offer him a chance to see other people playing the instrument. With him are his parents Jason Tan and Janis Low (both left) and his teacher Lee Huei Min. -- ST PHOTO: STEFFI KOH

A Mozart festival he watched on television when he was just two years old first piqued violin prodigy Samuel Tan's interest in the instrument.

His mother, bank vice-president Janis Low, 38, says: "He started to become very mesmerised by the orchestra violin pieces that were being played, and we decided to buy him a 1/32 fractional real violin after that."

She recalls how Samuel learnt the violin by himself and would frequently stand in front of the television and play along with a concert recording. He started attending violin lessons only just before he turned three years old.

Last month, Samuel, now nine, beat competitors almost four times his age to clinch the grand Postacchini Prize at the 21st International Andrea Postacchini Violin Competition held in Fermo, Italy.