At 25, Korean-born violinist Kyung-Wha Chung occupies a position in the front rank of the new-generation virtuosi.

First-prize winner of the Leventritt Competition in 1967 when, for the first time in the contest's history, the judges awarded a joint first prize to Miss Chung and Pinchas Zukerman, she immediately embarked upon an extraordinary career of international triumphs.

The results of her sensational European debut in 1970 with the London Symphony under Andre Previn brought not only an immediate re-engagement for the following season and "many seasons to come" but 30 concerts throughout Britain, booked within three days (10 appearances in London alone over an 18-month period); an 11-concert Far Eastern tour; 10 European tours arranged over the next three-year period; and a long-term contract with London-Decca records under which her recordings have already been released to superlative reviews.

Youngest daughter of a prominent Seoul lawyer, Miss Chung was born into one of the outstanding musical families in the Orient, in which five of six brothers and sisters completed musical training and two of which are practicing
professional artists: her sister, Myung-Wha, who is a cellist, and her brother, Myung-Whun, a pianist.

Although she began to study the piano at the age of four, her uncle, conductor of the Korea National Symphony, brought her a small violin from one of his trips abroad and, by age six, she began to study this instrument. Within six months, she entered her first competition and came in third; at the age of nine she made her debut with the Seoul Philharmonic.

During the next three years, the young violinist won first prize in a young person's competition, which carried with it a performance with the Korean Broadcasting Company, and two prizes from Seoul University; at the age of 12 she was sent by the Korean government on a concert tour of Japan. During this period she also participated in numerous chamber music concerts with members of her family and a huge benefit concert designed to help talented young Koreans pursue their studies in the United States.

In 1961 the family's immigration to the United States finally brought Kyung-Wha Chung to New York where her older sister was studying flute at the Juilliard School of Music. There she came to the attention of Ivan Galamian, teacher of many of today's foremost violinists, and was a student of the famed pedagogue for a total of seven years.

Miss Chung has played with most of the major American and European orchestras. When she returned to Korea for a concert appearance, 6,000 people jammed into a 4,500-seat hall just outside Seoul to cheer her performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto.

Highlights of her appearances last season included performances with the New York Philharmonic under Erich Leinsdorf, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Daniel Barenboim, the Pittsburgh Symphony under William Steinberg, the Cleveland Orchestra under Lorin Maazel, a Carnegie Hall appearance with the London Philharmonic under Rudolf Kempe, and performances at Robin Hood Dell, Washington's Wolf Trap Farm and at the Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony.

These appearances mark Miss Chung's debut with the Chicago Symphony at Orchestra Hall.