

Talented young dancers compete in Chicago 'grand prix' event



Anna Tsigler performs in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

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Hundreds of ballet dancers between the ages of nine and 19 auditioned in Chicago at the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals this weekend.

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Samantha Srebnik performs in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Chicago is one of 12 cities around North America selecting finalists who will compete at New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts and at Hunter College's Danny Kaye Playhouse in April.

Other cities are Las Vegas, San Diego, Toronto, Houston, San Francisco, Dallas, Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, Denver, Boston and Philadelphia.

Throughout the weekend in Chicago, the students attend workshops, competitions, and dance classes. The organization awards more than \$250,000 a year in scholarships to send young dancers to leading schools and dance companies to continue their training.

The Grand Prix also conducts auditions in several other countries including Belgium, France, Italy, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Japan. It's the world's largest ballet competition for dancers ages 9-19.

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Emma Donnelly performs in the contemporary category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)



Hans Anderson performs in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in River Forest, Ill. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)