Elena Kobayashi, 16, is currently a junior at Henry M. Gunn High School in Palo Alto. She began violin at age 7, studied with Hiroko Suzuki Hagman in Sweden and currently studies violin with Yi Zhou, the principal viola at the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra.

She was a first-place winner at Crescendo International Music Competition, earning her performances at Carnegie Hall and a first-place winner at the Winter 2023 King's Peak International Music Competition. She has attended the Wells Music Summer School International Strings Week 2018. She was also a member of Golden State Youth Orchestra in 2019-20 season.