

ACT I – YOUNGER STUDENTS

CATEGORY 1 –

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| 1st – Minerva Nong, piano solo | 4th – Emilee DeShong, tap dance |
| 2nd – Courtney Graham, vocal/dance | 5th – Clare Hernandez, piano solo |
| 3rd – Ashley Raymond, tap dance | Honorable Mention – Lauren Pashley, vocal solo |

CATEGORY 2 –

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|--|---|
| 1st – Luke Benedict, original piano solo | 3rd – Valeria Rigobon, vocal and guitar |
| 2nd – Jon Corpuz, vocal solo | Honorable Mention – Chance Nye, piano solo |

GROUPS –

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| 1st – Kristin & Jon Corpuz, vocal duet | 3rd – “Friends” Courtney Graham &
Jessica Twitmyer, vocal duet |
| 2nd – Showbiz – Broadway vocal | Honorable Mention – Little Stars Silver,
ballet dance |

**GRAND CHAMPION –
Kristin & Jon Corpuz, vocal duet**

ACT II – OLDER STUDENTS

CATEGORY 1–

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| 1st – Bianca Contreras, piano solo | 5th – Courtney Dabney, pointe dance |
| 2nd – Shelby Martin, vocal/dance | 6th – Lindsay Schiro, vocal solo |
| 3rd – Waylon Zeng, piano solo | Honorable Mention – Katie Ruffell, lyrical dance |
| 4th – Olivia Coscia, pointe dance | |

CATEGORY 2 –

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|---|---|
| 1st – Ashley Schoendorf, vocal solo | 3rd – Rachel Hernandez, piano solo |
| 2nd – Elizabeth LaRue, vocal solo | Honorable Mention – Kathleen White, vocal solo |

GROUPS –

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|--|---|
| 1ST – Suncoast School of the Arts,
musical theater | 3RD – Amanda Smith & Kathleen White,
vocal duet |
| 2ND – Les Etoiles, ballet dance | Honorable Mention – Super Special Sparkly
Singing Brigade |

**GRAND CHAMPION –
Suncoast School of the Arts, musical theater**

VISUAL ART COMPETITION –

Best of Show – Katie Lane
Honorable Mention – Kelsey Kroburn
Honorable Mention – Laura Martinez
Honorable Mention – Emily Richter
Honorable Mention – Michelle Rooks

Above are the winners named at the 26th “Spotlight on Talent” Performing and Visual Arts Competition, held last Saturday evening (March 28) at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. This contest has become so popular that we now have 2 final shows. Act I (younger students) was at 12:00 noon, and Act II (older students) was at 7:00 p.m. Each of these outstanding talented young people very much deserves recognition in our area newspapers! A special feature article we definitely feel is called for. Please go to our web site at www.heritagearts.org, to pull up some excellent digital photos.

Here are some additional facts we’d like you to use. One hundred fifty-seven contestants were given the opportunity to perform onstage at this 1st rate facility in front of 2 huge and enthusiastic crowds and 2 panels of professional judges. The non-profit Heritage Arts Center Association is the organization that produces this show each year. A 15 member Board of Directors worked for 3 months, and the final production team included 14 additional community friends who gave of their time. Executive Producer was Barbara Friedman, and Assistant Producers were Dr. Rebecca Groomes and Alicia Polk Guanio. Fourteen different corporate sponsors generously donated toward the over \$2,000 cash prizes, trophies and ribbons that were distributed, and to cover the over \$10,000 cost of the show. Also enclosed is the recent press release with additional info and the backgrounds of the final judges. Their names are Rosemary Bramuchi, Mary-Ann Cataldo, Dr. Brad Diamond, Dr. Rebecca Groomes, Patricia McNally, Melody Ossi, Susan Sisk, Dr. Robert MacDonald, Susan Walls, and Robert Winslow. Please put in as much as you can, and please call me if you need any other information. These were spectacular shows, and two huge crowds of 400-500 each had a great time cheering these amazing talents. Our 2 Masters of Ceremonies were Rev. Bradley Stevens and Henry “Chip” Wichmanowski. A wonderful variety of many types of talent was presented, with vocal, piano, dance, acrobatics, violin, and guitar performances represented.

Again this year we included a showing of beautiful artwork done by students in area schools, and judged by Marge Whaley. Of the 31 talented budding artists, Best of Show honors went to Katie Lane.

Heritage Arts Center Association felt that the level of excellence in these finalists was so high, that an additional recognition was in order. So a special “Grand Champion” trophy and additional cash award for each show went to the outstanding talents that earned the highest judges scores of the entire show. Act I’s Grand Champ was the brother/sister vocal duet of Kristin & Jon Corpuz, who have been in featured roles in professional theater groups in the Tampa area. The Grand Champs from Act 2 was the 28 member dance troupe from Suncoast School of the Arts, who brought the house to its feet with a Broadway production number “Be Our Guest” from Beauty and the Beast. They not only had acrobats flipping in the air, but cute “forks and spoons” dancing in golden costumes.

It was a very full day, showcasing the amazing talents of 157 young people. But hard work, discipline, great instruction and sacrificial parenting paid off with a demonstration of the wonderful and inspiring gifts that the performing and visual arts can be to our lives. The huge audiences of family and community friends who were fortunate enough – and wise enough - to have attended were completely entertained and charmed.