

**Press Release – TALENTED WINNERS IN THE “SPOTLIGHT”**

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**ACT I – YOUNGER STUDENTS**

**CATEGORY 1 –**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Minerva Nong, piano solo  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Eduardo Carreno-Olivo, piano solo  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Victoria Neukom, acrobatics  
Honorable Mention – Allyson Worthy, vocal solo**

**CATEGORY 2 –**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Mary Olive Gauthier, vocal solo  
2<sup>nd</sup> – David Singh, piano solo  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Destiny Torres, vocal solo  
Honorable Mention – Rachel Graham, acrobatics**

**GROUPS –**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Showtime, show choir  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Jessie Hart & Victoria Neukom, acrobatic duet  
Honorable Mention – Showbiz, show choir**

**ACT II – OLDER STUDENTS**

**CATEGORY 1–**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Shelby Martin, musical theater  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Jason Nong, piano solo  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Kevin Hernandez, classical guitar  
Honorable Mention – Katie Ruffell, lyrical dance**

**CATEGORY 2 –**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Leah Weightman, modern dance  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Amanda Smith, vocal solo  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Bianca Contreras, piano solo  
Honorable Mention – Kathleen White, vocal solo**

**GROUPS –**

**1<sup>ST</sup> – Star Company, lyrical dance  
2<sup>ND</sup> – Bradley Cloversettle & Amanda Smith, vocal duet  
Honorable Mention – Showstoppers, show choir**

**VISUAL ART COMPETITION –**

**Best of Show, High School – Elizabeth Fox  
Best of Show, Middle School – Chase Youmans  
Honorable Mention – Eric Maier  
Honorable Mention – Tayler Trudeau  
Honorable Mention – Cody Killen  
Honorable Mention – Tracy Perkins**

Above are the winners named at the 27th “Spotlight on Talent” Performing and Visual Arts Competition, held last Saturday evening (March 27) 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](http://www.heritagearts.org), to pull up some excellent digital photos.

Here are some additional facts we’d like you to use. One hundred fifty-two contestants were given the opportunity to perform onstage at this 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Twenty-six different corporate sponsors generously donated toward the over \$2,000 cash prizes, trophies and ribbons that were distributed, and to cover the over \$11,000 cost of the shows. Also enclosed is the recent press release with additional info and the backgrounds of the final judges and emcees. Their names are Carol Parker, Mary-Ann Aguis, Carole McBride, Dr. Sam Wright, Sofia Kraevska, Cyndee Dornblaser, Tony Mercer, Dr. Kim McCormick, Kerry Nel, and Lisa Watson. Our 2 Masters of Ceremonies were Erica Hayden McCarthy and Hutch Brock. 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 200-300 each had a great time cheering these amazing talents. A wonderful variety of many types of talent was presented, with vocal, piano, dance, acrobatics, violin, drum and guitar performances represented.

Again this year we included a showing of beautiful artwork done by students in area schools, and judged by Kathleen Durham. There were 45 talented budding artists representing 5 area schools.

It was a very full day, showcasing the amazing talents of 152 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.