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

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**MATINEE—YOUNGER STUDENTS**

**CATEGORY 1 --**

**1st - Rio Ricardo, musical theater**

**2nd - Evangeline Dolan, musical theater**

**3rd - Eden Kirkland, ballet dance**

**4th - Salvador Hernandez, piano**

**CATEGORY 2 --**

**1st - Vincent Pham, piano**

**2nd - Samuel Wu, piano**

**3rd - Dino Antoniou, electric guitar**

**4th - Kasey Lang, piano**

**CATEGORY 3 -**

**1st - Lauren Scotch, contemporary dance**

**2nd - Isabel Ramos, musical theater**

**3rd - Jasmine Kurz, musical theater**

**4th - Jasmine Crew, contemporary dance**

**GROUPS -**

**1st - Showtime, musical theater**

**2nd - Songbirds, musical theater -**

**Bianca Horodecki & Gabrielle Smedley**

**3rd - Gotta Dance Diamondz, lyrical dance**

**EVENING – OLDER STUDENTS**

**CATEGORY 1 -**

**1st - Faith Phaller, contemporary dance**

**2nd - Hannah Goserud, voice and guitar**

**3rd - Sailor Wade, pointe dance**

**4th - Jayden Parsons, contemporary dance**

**CATEGORY 2 -**

**1st - Flavio Eduardo Carreno-Olivo, piano**

**2nd - Katie Knight, lyrical dance**

**3rd - Agnes Hernandez, piano**

**CATEGORY 3 -**

**1st - Zachary D'onofrio, vocal**

**2nd - Roman Ricardo, musical theater**

**3rd - Julianna Mazza, contemporary dance**

**4th - Gracie Scaglione, contemporary dance**

**5th - Amanda Cloversettle, vocal**

**GROUPS -**

**1st - Showstoppers, musical theater**

**2nd - Showbiz, musical theater**

**PASCO HERITAGE $1,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

**Zachary D'onofrio, vocal**

Above are the winners named at the 36th annual “Spotlight on Talent” Performing Arts Competition, held last Saturday (March 19) at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High. This contest has become so popular that we now have 2 final shows. The Matinee (younger students) was at 12 noon, and the Evening Show (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, all labeled and ready to go.

Here are some additional facts we’d like you to use. Over 170 contestants were given the opportunity to perform onstage at this first rate facility in front of 2 enthusiastic crowds and 2 panels of professional judges. The non-profit Heritage Arts Center Assoc. is the organization that produces this show each year. A 15 member Board of Dir. worked for 3 months, and the final production team included 14 additional community friends who gave of their time. Exec. Producer was Barbara Friedman, and Asst. Producers were Dr. Rebecca Groomes and Michael Roberts. 29 different corporate/community sponsors generously donated toward the over $4,000 cash prizes, trophies and ribbons that were distributed, and to cover the over $17,000 cost of the shows. Our Masters of Ceremonies were Ben Alexander of Tampa Bay Solar and Clint Roberson of Edge Law Practice.

These were spectacular shows, and the crowds of hundreds had a great time cheering these amazing talents. A wonderful variety of many types of talent was presented, including vocal, piano, dance, musical theater, electric guitar and a steel drum band. One exciting announcement was the climax of the evening show, the naming of our 7th Pasco Heritage Scholarship recipient! The $1,000 award went to singer Zachary D'onofrio from Wiregrass Ranch High, who works with Dreamhouse Theater and appeared on TV in 4 rounds of "American Idol". Zach was the Pasco County graduating senior with the highest solo scores from the finals judges as well as the audition judges.

It was a very full day, showcasing the amazing talents of 170 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 audiences of family and community friends were completely entertained and charmed.

Please put in as much as you can, and please call me if you need any other information.