

**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> – Taylor Hernandez, piano solo**

**4<sup>th</sup> – Hannah Knight, vocal/guitar solo**

**Honorable Mention – Julianna Mazza, acrobatics**

**CATEGORY 2 –**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Owen Clanahan, piano solo**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Sinclair Feldman, vocal solo**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Courtney Graham, musical theatre**

**4<sup>th</sup> – Clare Hernandez, piano solo**

**Honorable Mention – Jessica Twitmyer, vocal solo**

**GROUPS –**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Showbiz, Broadway vocal**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Destiny Torres & Macy Marshburn, vocal duet**

**ACT II – OLDER STUDENTS**

**CATEGORY 1–**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Chance Nye, piano solo**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Destiny Torres, vocal solo**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Mary Olive Gauthier, vocal solo**

**Honorable Mention – Macy Marshburn, vocal/piano solo**

**CATEGORY 2 –**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Kevin Hernandez, classical guitar solo**

**1<sup>st</sup> (tie) – Shelby Martin, musical theatre**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Grace Hernandez, piano solo**

**Honorable Mention – Katie Ruffell, pointe dance**

**CATEGORY 3 –**

**1<sup>ST</sup> – Bianca Contreras, piano solo**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Amanda Smith, vocal solo**

**Honorable Mention – Leah Weightman, contemporary dance**

**GROUPS –**

**1<sup>ST</sup> – The Juniors, Sean Morehouse & Adrion Sanchez, dance**

**2<sup>ND</sup> – Star Company, dance**

**VISUAL ART COMPETITION –**

**Best of Show, High School – Sammy Armstrong**

**Best of Show, Middle School – Eric Pitton**

**Honorable Mentions – Elizabeth Fox, Michelle Longstreet, Katie Sutton, Alex Viera  
Honorable Mentions – Natalie Davis, Madison Killen, Abigail Smith, Brandon Swinford**

Above are the winners named at the 28th “Spotlight on Talent” Performing and Visual Arts Competition, held last Saturday evening (March 26) 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 thirty-seven 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 22 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. The 10 final judges, all professionals in their fields, were Rosemary Bramuchi, Frances Coburn, Dr. Brad Diamond, Dr. Sang Hie Lee, Erica McCarthy, Patricia McNalley, Jennifer Regal, Susan Sisk, Dr. Larry Sledge, and Robert Winslow. Our 2 Masters of Ceremonies were John Timpanelli and Dr. Mike Rom. 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 hundreds 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, and guitar performances represented.

Again this year we included a showing of beautiful artwork done by students in area schools, and judged by Dave Thompson. There were 33 talented budding artists representing 6 area schools.

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 huge audiences of family and community friends who were fortunate enough – and wise enough - to have attended were completely entertained and charmed.