

Press Release – TALENTED WINNERS IN THE “SPOTLIGHT”

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ACT I – YOUNGER STUDENTS

CATEGORY 1 –

- 1st – Julianna Mazza, acrobatic dance**
- 2nd – Taylor Hernandez, piano solo**
- 3rd – Nicolas Coste Delvecchio, piano solo**

CATEGORY 2 –

- 1st – Minerva Nong, piano solo**
- 2nd – Victoria Neukom, acrobatic dance**
- 3rd – Tyler Luginski, musical theatre**
- 4th – Chase Hemphill, vocal solo**
- Honorable Mention – Kaitlyn Cicanese, musical theater**
- And Timothy Nguyen, piano solo**

CATEGORY 3 –

- 1st – David Singh, piano solo**
- 2nd – Jasmine Acevedo, dance**
- 3rd – Molly Bentley, pointe dance**

GROUPS –

- 1st – Star Company Apprentices, acrobatics dance**
- 2nd – Grace & Maggie McGill, Scottish Highland dance**

ACT II – OLDER STUDENTS

CATEGORY 1–

- 1st – Mary Olive Gauthier, musical theater**
- 2nd – Macy Marshburn, vocal solo**
- 3rd – Jordan Allison, contemporary dance**
- Honorable Mention – Kevin Hernandez, classical guitar**

CATEGORY 2 –

- 1st – Riley Reardon, dance**
- 2nd – Joseph McGill, Highland bagpipe**

CATEGORY 3 –

- 1ST – Shelby Martin, musical theater**
- 2nd – Dakota Gagliano, piano solo**
- 3rd – Anna LaRue, lyrical dance**
- Honorable Mention – Kalee Strickland, piano solo**

GROUPS –

- 1ST – Rhythm and Sole Ensemble, tap dance**
- 2ND – “Mama Will Hold Me” Jasmine Acevedo & Riley Reardon, dance**

VISUAL ART COMPETITION –

- Best of Show, High School – Coralys Madero**
- Best of Show, Middle School – Alexis Bohannon**
- Honorable Mentions – Elizabeth Fox, Megan Huppert, Rikki Mins**
- Honorable Mentions – Francisco Balthazar, Rachel Barthle, Cody Killen**

Above are the winners named at the 29th “Spotlight on Talent” Performing and Visual Arts Competition, held last Saturday (March 10) at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High. This contest has become so popular that we now have 2 final shows. Act I (younger students) was at 12 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. 133 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 Assoc. 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 20 additional community friends who gave of their time. Executive Producer was Barbara Friedman, and Assistant Producers were Dr. Rebecca Groomes and Alicia Polk Guanio. 41 different corporate sponsors generously donated toward the over \$3,000 cash prizes, trophies and ribbons that were distributed, and to help cover the over \$12,000 cost of the shows. The 10 final judges, all professionals in their fields, were Mary-Ann Aguis, Ryan Bogart, Cyndee Dornblaser, Keri Knecht Grosso, Dr. Kim McCormick, Melody Ossi, Jennifer Porter, Rebecca Rognas, Lisa Watson and Agnieska Zick. Our 2 Masters of Ceremonies were Attorney Chip Mander and recent Secretary of State Kurt Browning. 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, Scottish bagpipe, and guitar performances represented.

Again this year we included a showing of beautiful artwork done by students in area schools, and judged by Kent Ross. There were 37 talented budding artists representing 5 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.