

PRESS RELEASE

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Sunriver Music Festival Awards \$25,000 in Young Artist Scholarships

The Sunriver Music Festival awarded a record amount of \$25,000 in scholarships to twenty-six talented musicians participating in the Young Artist Scholarship program. Over the program's fourteen year history, 118 classical music students from Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties have been the recipients of over \$211,000 in scholarships to go toward private music lessons, music camps and college tuition.

"This scholarship program would not be possible without the support of our Sunriver community," explains Pam Beezley of the Sunriver Music Festival. "This year, 90% of our scholarship donations were from individuals who are committed to supporting these talented young musicians. The balance of this year's support came from generous grants from the Sunriver Women's Club and the Sunriver Rotary."

Many of the Young Artist Scholarship program's beneficiaries continue to compete for scholarships through their entire college career and many are enjoying successes in a number of other regional and national musical competitions. Here are a handful of students that represent the top quality of the Young Artist Scholarship program.

- Kyle Ruggles, a 16 year old flutist from Burns, was selected to represent the State of Oregon as a member of the MENC All-Northwest Honor Band at their concert held at the Performing Arts Center in Spokane, Washington on February 15th, 2009. Kyle's "outstanding audition" was chosen from over 5,500 auditions submitted by high school music students from the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. Being selected to participate in an MENC National Association For Music Education All-Northwest Honor Group is the highest honor bestowed upon a high school musician.
- Miya Saito-Beckman, 14, violinist and fiddler from Bend, won an American String Teachers Association Scholarship this spring and was selected to perform at their annual music conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Miya also placed in the finals in the Invitational Grand Master's Fiddle Competition in Nashville, Tennessee where she competed against fiddlers of all ages.

- Scott Carroll, 18, is an accomplished Operatic Lyric Tenor from Bend. He has performed many leading roles with Children and Teen's Music Theatre Group, Cascades Theatrical Company, Obsidian Opera, and Summit High School. He currently serves as a Musical Director for Children and Teen's Music Theatre Group. Scott served as the Artistic Director for Summit High School's first full student directed play "And Then There Were None" this past winter. Most recently Scott competed nationally in New York City for the Classical Singer Competition.

- Cameron Wilkens, 20, pianist from Bend, recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hillsdale College's Honors Program in Michigan with a degree in Music Performance and Music Theory. In the fall, Cameron will attend the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. In the 2008 Kaplan/Newsweek "How to Get into College" guide, The University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music was named the "Hottest Music School".

"A number of our scholarship applicants apply for scholarships throughout their high school and college years, so we get the opportunity to follow their musical achievements," explains Jodie Bischof, the Young Artist Scholarship program chairman. "It's exciting to watch these students grow as musicians over the years and pursue their dreams of becoming professional musicians, and it's rewarding to know that our Young Artist Scholarship program has assisted them along the way."

For more information about the Young Artist Scholarship program or the summer festival, call the Sunriver Music Festival ticket office at 541-593-9310, email at tickets@sunrivermusic.org or visit the website at www.sunrivermusic.org.