

MEDIA RELEASE

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RE: Sunriver Music Festival

PHOTO: Photos available

CONTACT: Pam Beezley, 541-593-1084, pam@sunrivermusic.org



Sunriver Music Festival's Awards Record Number of Scholarships to Central Oregon Musicians

The Sunriver Music Festival's Young Artists Scholarship (YAS) program had a record breaking year and awarded \$38,000 to twenty-nine classical music students between the ages of 12 to 23 over the weekend of June 1 - 3. The individual scholarships ranged from \$200 - \$5,000.

Celebrating twenty-one years, the Young Artists Scholarship program has awarded \$438,300 to 135 Central Oregon music students in middle school, high school and college. To qualify for scholarships, students must reside in Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook and Harney counties and they must aspire to be professional classical musicians.

"This year, out of the twenty-nine scholarships, eight of the students were new applicants to the program," explains Jodie Bischof, the Young Artists Scholarship program chairman. "We have never had so many students audition for scholarships in the history of this program."

On Sunday, June 12th at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Sunriver, seventeen of the 2016 scholarship winners performed to a full house at the annual Young Artists Scholarship Concert.

The Young Artists Scholarship program began in 1996 with a handful of talented music students and a generous grant from the Sunriver Women's Club. Today, the Women's Club continues to support the Festival's music education programs in addition to a growing number of individual contributors. Other grants supporting the Sunriver Music Festival's music education programs are from the Sunriver Rotary Club and the Oregon Community Foundation. The majority of the individual contributions to the scholarship program occur at the Sunriver Music Festival's annual fundraiser, Festival Faire (*scheduled for Sunday, July 31st at the Sunriver Resort Great Hall*).

"We are very fortunate to have the generous support of the Young Artists Scholarship program from our local Sunriver community," explains Pam Beezley of the Sunriver Music Festival. "These students continue to amaze and inspire anyone who hears them perform and many of our students have significant financial needs. This scholarship program fills a need in our community."

Young Artists Scholarships are awarded in three categories: 1) College or Music Conservatory tuition, 2) Private music lessons and 3) Music camps.

While eight of the scholarship winners were new to the program this year, a number of students continue to audition each year for scholarships throughout their college career.

Jodie Bischof adds, "Over the years, we've watched these talented young musicians grow in confidence and skill and a number of these students have been accepted into prestigious college music programs. The cost of college education continues to escalate and our goal is to provide adequate financial support to help these students continue their music studies and become professional musicians."

For more information about the Young Artists Scholarship program or the summer festival or to purchase tickets, call the Sunriver Music Festival Ticket Office at 541-593-9310, email at information@sunrivermusic.org or visit the website at www.sunrivermusic.org.

The Sunriver Music Festival's two week summer festival runs from August 7 – 18. Concerts will be at the historic Sunriver Resort Great Hall, Summit High School and the Tower Theatre in downtown Bend. Festival Faire Dinner and Auction will be held on Sunday, July 31st at the Sunriver Resort Great Hall. Tickets are currently on sale for the summer concerts and Festival Faire.

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