



A PROGRAM OF NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE ARTS
Inspiring Young Artists for America's Future

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COLORADO'S MOST WATCHED BUDDING ARTISTS RECOGNIZED AT DENVER ART MUSEUM

Second Annual youngARTS™ Colorado Regional Awards Ceremony & Performance Shines Spotlight on Twenty-Six Up and Comers in the Performing, Literary and Cultural Arts

MIAMI (March 24, 2008) – One is a witty animator with a flair for kooky characters. Another is an aspiring songbird with pipes for days. Others are puppet makers, jazz drummers, and improvisational thespians. All are destined for stardom, much like former youngARTS™ alumni such as multiple Grammy Award winner Josh Groban, singer-actor Vanessa Williams and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater principals Mathew Rushing and Linda Celeste Sims.

Twenty-six of Colorado's most promising student artists will be honored in a recognition and performance ceremony Wed., April 9 at the Denver Art Museum, when the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) presents the second annual youngARTS Colorado Regional Awards. Colorado philanthropists Robert and Judi Newman host the event.

Showcasing their work will be four students (three seniors and one recent graduate, all from Denver School of the Arts): Anne Joy, 2008 youngARTS Winner in Theater; Emily Luhrs, 2008 youngARTS Winner in Voice; Ryan Brown, 2008 youngARTS Winner in Writing (now a freshman at Duke University), and Taran Van Hemert, 2008 youngARTS Winner in Cinematic Arts.

The evening will commence at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by special performances and a recognition ceremony where honorees will receive their cash awards of \$500 each. The event, which takes place in the museum's Lewis I. Sharp Auditorium in the Hamilton Building, 100 W 14th Avenue Parkway, is free and open to the public, however, advance reservations are required and seating is limited.

"Colorado has always produced some of the brightest talents in the national youngARTS program," said Dr. Robert Newman, NFAA Board Member. "It is our privilege to showcase and bestow recognition upon these extraordinary students

hailing from our own backyard, and outfit them with the support they need to pursue their passions. A total of \$13,000 in cash awards will be given to our Colorado young artists. This is in addition to another \$13,000 already awarded in the national program to youngARTS Finalists, Honorable Mention and Merit Winners."

Each year, youngARTS, the core program of NFAA, selects, honors and nurtures exceptional high school seniors and other 17 and 18-year-olds from across the U.S. in each of nine artistic fields: dance, cinematic arts, classical, pop and jazz music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing. Talented students from across the nation receive up to \$10,000 from the Miami-based not-for-profit organization, and the chance to be named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

For more information about the youngARTS Colorado Regional Awards ceremony, please contact Rebecca Interian at (305) 377-1140 or email Rebecca@nfaa.org.

To learn more about NFAA, call 800-970-ARTS (2787) or visit www.youngARTS.org.

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Editor's Note:

The full list of youngARTS Colorado Regional Award winners, images and biographical information is available upon request.

ABOUT NFAA:

Dedicated to inspiring young artists for America's future, NFAA's mission is to identify emerging artists and assist them at critical junctures with their educational and professional development; and to raise the appreciation for, and support of, the arts in American society. NFAA's youngARTS program is sponsored, in part, by: Bank of America; Carnival Cruise Lines; The Coca-Cola Company; The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust; Gibson Guitar Corporation; Baldwin Piano; Gibson Baldwin Music Education; The Gibson Foundation; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Panasonic/Lumix and SunTrust.

youngARTS Week 2008 was sponsored, in part, by: The National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council; and the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs; the Cultural Affairs Council; the Tourist Development Council; and the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners.