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YoungArts Announces Top 2010 Student Artists in the Nation Who Will Attend YoungArts Week in Miami, January 11-16

MIAMI, FL (December, 2009) – Thousands of dollars in awards; master classes by world-renowned artists; performances and exhibitions; a chance to be named a Gold and Silver winner and travel to New York; the possibility to become a Presidential Scholar in the Arts and visit the White House, and much more, will fuel the ambitions and dreams of 143 of America’s best young artists when they come to Miami January 11-16 for YoungArts Week! Chosen from more than 4,000 applicants in nine disciplines in the visual, literary and performing arts, these 17 and 18-year-olds will embark on a once-in-a-lifetime experience provided by YoungArts, the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA).

The students attending YoungArts Week were selected in a blind adjudication process from a pool representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as all U.S. territories. The adjudication process will continue during YoungArts Week to determine who will become Gold and Silver winners and travel to New York in the spring for the *In the Studio* series, an additional week of workshops, collaborative performances and exhibitions. Gold winners receive \$10,000 and Silver winners receive \$5,000. Additionally, awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 are presented to students exhibiting excellence in their discipline. From this pool of 143 student artists also will be determined the 2010 Presidential Scholars in the Arts, an award given at the White House with the opportunity to perform at the Kennedy Center and exhibit at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

YoungArts is the only organization in the nation to recognize students in nine discipline categories of cinematic arts, dance, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing.

“We are honored to recognize these fine young artists,” said Christina DePaul, President and CEO of YoungArts. “They represent the next generation of extraordinary artistic talent, and it is our hope that their experience with YoungArts will compel them to pursue their passions.”

Media Note: Student bios/photos available upon request. For more information please contact Nicolle Ugarriza nugarriza@youngarts.org 305.377.1140 x 1201 or Kate McPherson kmcpherson@youngarts.org 305.377.1140 x 1203 or visit www.youngarts.org.

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About YoungArts:

YoungArts is the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA). It is the signature national organization that recognizes and supports America’s most talented 17-18 year olds in the visual, literary and performing arts. YoungArts is the sole nominating agency for Presidential Scholars in the Arts. The foundation provides emerging artists with financial support and life changing experiences with internationally renowned artists. YoungArts alumni go on to become leading professionals in their fields. Alumni include Emmy nominated actress Vanessa Williams, three-time Tony Award nominee Raúl Esparza, star of HBO’s Entourage Adrian Grenier and Warner Brothers Recording Artist Josh Groban. For more information, please visit www.youngarts.org

YoungArts 2010 Finalists:

Cinematic Arts

Michael Beuttler—San Anselmo, California
Sir Francis Drake High School

Salimatu Amabebe—Camden, Maine
Watershed Community School

James Duarte—Bronx, New York
Theatre Arts Production Company School

Grace Samson—Burbank, California
Providence High School

Sheema Golbaba—Tulsa, Oklahoma
Jenks High School

David Harrison—Miami, Florida
Design & Architecture Senior High

Kelley Katzenmeyer—Durham, North Carolina
North Carolina School of Arts

Dance

Rebecca Houseknecht—Odenton, Maryland
Arundel Senior High School

Lindsey Schwarze—Novato, California
San Marin High School

Madison Morris—The Woodlands, Texas
Home School

Jackson Dwyer—Winchester, Virginia
Canada`s National Ballet School

Kristina Bentz—Jupiter, Florida
Benjamin School

Nora Mcginley-Hence—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
21st Century Cyber Charter School

Jaimi Cullen—Brooklyn, New York
Keystone National High School

Austin Goodwin—Plano, Texas
B T Washington High School Arts

Amanda Vercamen—Ocoee, Florida
Ocoee High School

Victoria Caffey—The Colony, Texas
B T Washington High School Arts

Evan Schwarz—Calabasas, California
Los Angeles Cnty High School for Arts

Jacquelin Harris—Charlotte, North Carolina
Cannon School

Reed Tankersley—Los Altos, California
Mountain View High School

Ida Saki—Plano, Texas
B T Washington High School Arts

John Harnage—Miami Shores, Florida
New World School of the Arts

Robert Moore—Porter, Texas
High School Perform & Vis Arts

Gianni Howell—Coral Springs, Florida
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

Christopher Millison—Bear, Delaware
Cab Calloway School of the Art High School

Nayilah Antoine—Brooklyn, New York
Fiorello H. Laguardia High School

Kasi Aysola—Reseda, California
Reseda High School Math & Science Magnet

Kiera Daley—Miami Shores, Florida
Saint Thomas Aquinas High School

Jazz

Braxton Cook—Silver Spring, Maryland
Springbrook High School

Raviv Markovitz—Lexington, Massachusetts
Lexington High School

Gabriel Condon—Penfield, New York

Penfield High School

Luke Celenza—Bedford, New York
Fox Lane High School

Jimmy Macbride—West Hartford, Connecticut
Hall High School

Natalie Cressman—New York, New York
School of the Arts

Nicholas Frenay—Syracuse, New York
Manlius-Pebble Hill School

Music

Trevor Nuckols—Interlochen, Michigan
Interlochen Arts Academy

Alexander Walden—Titusville, Florida
Interlochen Arts Academy

Ansel Norris—Madison, Wisconsin
Madison East High School

Emily Carter—West Chester, Ohio
Interlochen Arts Academy

Michael Taylor—Arlington, Texas
Home School

Molly Joyce—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Fox Chapel Area High School

Gregory Zelek—Coral Gables, Florida
New World School of the Arts

Reed Tetzloff—Bloomington, Minnesota
Home School and PSEO at Normandale Community College

Mia Nishikawa—Houston, Texas
Kinkaid School

Priscella Chan—Arcadia, California
Polytechnic School

Andrew Bahle—Suttons Bay, Michigan
Interlochen Arts Academy

Matthew Lipman—University Park, Illinois
Crete-Monee High School

Clare Semes—Broomall, Pennsylvania
Kolbe Academy

Stella Chen—Palo Alto, Colorado
Palo Alto Senior High School

Bobby Chen—Newton, Massachusetts
Phillips Academy

Catherine Chen—Greenwich, Connecticut

Greenwich High School

Matthew Wright—New York, New York
Warren Township High School

Jacqueline Berndt—Miami, Florida
Interlochen Arts Academy

Lauren Williams—Northbrook, Illinois
Chicago Academy for Arts

Gretchen Myers—Cleveland, Ohio
Upper Arlington High School

Austin Taylor—Plano, Texas
St Mark`s School of Texas

Photography

David Molay—Dallas, Texas
Greenhill School

John Goss—Bellaire, Texas
Kinkaid School

Ilana Goldmeier—Pikesville, Maryland
Carver Center Arts & Tech

Wallace Hall—Dallas, Texas

St Mark`s School of Texas

Adam Brobjorg—Richardson, Texas
St Mark`s School of Texas

Theater

Maxwell Schneider—New York, New York
Professional Performng Arts School

John Ford-Dunker—Fargo, North Dakota
South High School

Elanna White—Astoria, New York
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts

Storm Lineberger—San Antonio, Texas
Ronald Reagan High School

Blaine Krauss—St. Petersburg, Florida
Gibbs Senior High School

Katherine Drinkard—Littleton, Colorado
Thunderridge High School

Margaret Randolph—Pacific Palisades, California
Interlochen Arts Academy

Hannah Richter—Greenwood Village, Colorado
Interlochen Arts Academy

Erica Vlahinos—Castle Rock, Colorado
Douglas County High School

Zoe Mylonas—New York, New York
Fiorello H. Laguardia High School

Gabrielle Febland—Brooklyn, New York
Fiorello H. Laguardia High School

Colby Minifie—New York, New York
Professional Perf Arts School

Eric Weiman—Edina, Minnesota
Edina High School

Michael Silberblatt—Coronado, California
Coronado High School
Summer Ryan—Orange, California
Orange County High School of the Arts

Mia Crowe—Garland, Texas
B T Washington High School Arts

Ember Knight—Topanga, California
Los Angeles Cnty High School for Arts

Riley Smith—Glendale, California
Los Angeles Cnty High School for Arts

Charlotte Williams—Compton, California

Los Angeles Cnty High School for Arts

Alexander Oyen—Orlando, Florida
Dr Phillips High School

Julia Strange—Louisville, Kentucky
Dupont Manual Magnet High School

Visual Arts

Janet Lorenz—Hialeah, Florida
Design & Architecture Senior High

Stephanie Gamarra—Miami, Florida
Design & Architecture Senior High

Zyanya Cruz—Miami, Florida
Design & Architecture Senior High

Keith Clougherty—Miami Beach, Florida
Design & Architecture Senior High

Lauren Robie—North Miami Beach, Florida
Design & Architecture Senior High

Lauren Cahill—Miami, Florida
Design & Architecture Senior High

Arthur Kaplan—Coral Gables, Florida
New World School of the Arts

Gabriel Lopez—Miami, Florida
New World School of the Arts

Kaison Smoak—Orangeburg, South Carolina
Orangeburg Wilkinson High School

Anna Hodges—Baltimore, Maryland
Baltimore School for the Arts

Aaron Starkey—Johns Creek, Georgia
Chattahoochee High School

Luis Espinoza—Tampa, Florida
Howard W Blake High School

Adam Weiner—Lutherville, Maryland
Carver Center Arts & Tech

Alexander Kuhn—Baltimore, Maryland
Carver Center Arts & Tech

Jonathan Cuba—Boca Raton, Florida
Alexander W Dreyfoos Junior School

Harrison Tyler—Lake Worth, Florida
Alexander W Dreyfoos Junior School

Alex Hutton—Jupiter, Florida
Alexander W Dreyfoos Junior School

Christina Genduso—Wellington, Florida
Alexander W Dreyfoos Junior School

Connor Watumull—Dallas, Texas
St Mark`s School of Texas

Lynn Kim—Douglaston, New York
Benjamin Cardozo High School

Deanna Ko—Little Neck, New York
Benjamin Cardozo High School

Voice

Johnathan Mccullough—Sherman Oaks, California
Notre Dame High School

Sean Plumb—Los Angeles, California
Loyola High School

Terrence Jegaraj—San Lorenzo, California
Interlochen Arts Academy

Joseph Baker—Greenbelt, Maryland
Suitland High School

Benjamin Lusher—Dobbs Ferry, New York
Masters School

Michael Mayo—Van Nuys, California
Los Angeles Cnty High School for Arts

Simone Harvey—Los Angeles, California
Marlborough School

Ellen Chew—Interlochen, Michigan
Interlochen Arts Academy

Michael Rodriguez—Newark, New Jersey
Arts High School

Teira Church—Los Angeles, California
Alexander Hamilton High School

Crystal Glenn—Wappingers Falls, New York
Roy C Ketcham Senior High School

Alexis Aime—Simpsonville, South Carolina
Fine Arts Center the

Crystal Vanrell—Huntsville, Alabama
Virgil I Grissom High School

Cara Gabrielson—Portland, Oregon
Beaverton High School

Katelyn Wilson—South Barrington, Illinois
Barrington Community High School

Arielle Armstrong—Columbia, Maryland
Baltimore School for the Arts

Nicholas Garza—Harlingen, Texas
Harlingen High School

Willson Oppedahl—Libertyville, Illinois
Libertyville High School

Alexander Vollmer—Marietta, Georgia
Pebblebrook High School

Writing

Aliza Gans—Woodbridge, Connecticut
ACES center for the arts

Caroline Durlacher—Havertown, Pennsylvania
Baldwin School

Jake Ross—Greenville, South Carolina
South Carolina Gov SC Art Hum

Uchechi Kalu—Orangeburg, South Carolina
South Carolina Gov SC Art Hum

Kaitlyn Knoll—Jupiter, Florida
Alexander W Dreyfoos Junior School

Paul Goodrich—Irvine, California
University High School

Sharon Jan—Azusa, California
Orange County High School of the Arts

Andrew King—Hayward, California
Moreau Catholic High School

Allison Swagler—Birmingham, Alabama
Alabama School of Fine Arts

Matthew Brailas—Austin, Texas
Westlake High School

Perry Hungerford—Greenville, South Carolina
South Carolina Gov SC Art Hum

Julia Wood—Brookhaven, Mississippi
Mississippi School of the Arts

Drew Dickerson—Cumming, Georgia
Forsyth Central High School

Natasha Cox—New Orleans, Louisiana
Belle Chasse High School

Steven Clayton—Knoxville, Tennessee
Webb School of Knoxville

Amber Cresgy—Orange Park, Florida

Douglas Anderson School Arts

Phoebe Nir—New York, New York
Fieldston School

Rebecca Lucas—Chicago, Illinois
University of Chicago Laboratory High School

Emma O`Connor—New York, New York
Saint Anns School

Jessie Moss—Reisterstown, Maryland
Carver Center Arts & Tech

Victoria Elliott—Interlochen, Michigan
Interlochen Arts Academy