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**TALENTED YOUNG ARTISTS URGED TO REGISTER
FOR PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL ARTS RECOGNITION PROGRAM
WITH CASH AWARDS UP TO \$10,000 EACH**

**Early Deadline Applicants Receive 30% Discount
and Additional College Scholarship Opportunities**

MIAMI, FL (March 15, 2006) – The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) announced today that it has begun to accept 2006-2007 registrations from young artists for its renowned NFAA Arts Recognition and Talent Search® (ARTS) program. NFAA identifies and rewards exceptional student artists from across the U.S. in nine art disciplines: dance, film and video, classical, pop and jazz music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing. High school juniors are encouraged to apply for an awards package including more than \$500,000 in cash prizes and the chance to be named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, earning national recognition and opportunities for additional scholarships.

The early NFAA ARTS 2006-2007 registration deadline is **June 1, 2006**. The final deadline is **October 2, 2006** and the deadline to submit audition/portfolio materials is **November 1, 2006**. Those who register online at www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org before the June 1 deadline will receive a 30% fee discount. In addition, student information submitted by the early deadline will be shared, with permission, to a broad network of colleges, universities and conservatories affiliated with NFAA, increasing the chances for recruitment and further scholarship money. Eligible artists must be high school seniors during the 2006-2007 school year. Students who will not be high school seniors are eligible for NFAA ARTS if they are 17 or 18 years old on December 1, 2006.

“These students are at the very pinnacle of their young careers and are chosen to participate in NFAA ARTS Week because they are, quite simply, the best,” said NFAA president Bill Banchs. “And this is a prime opportunity for students to capture the attention of top schools looking for extraordinary artistic talent.”

Each year, NFAA invites 160 artists to participate in NFAA ARTS Week, a once-in-a-lifetime experience consisting of performances, master classes, workshops, readings, exhibits and enrichment activities with renowned artists and arts educators. NFAA ARTS Week takes place every January in Miami, Florida. NFAA pays all expenses, including airfare, hotel, meals and ground transportation.

Every student who participates in ARTS Week will receive one of the following awards:

- The coveted **\$10,000 ARTS Gold Award**, a non-stipulated cash award that will be given to up to 15 deserving finalists;
- **\$5,000 Silver Award**, bestowed to as many as four deserving finalists in each of the nine NFAA ARTS disciplines;
- Level IV, III, II and I Awards, ranging from **\$500 to \$3,000**, granted to the remaining NFAA ARTS Finalists.

In addition, at the exclusive request of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, NFAA nominates up to 50 ARTS Week Winners for the Commission's consideration to be named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. The 20 young artists who are ultimately selected by the Commission join 121 other Presidential Scholars and are recognized for their academic excellence during National Recognition Week each June in Washington, D.C. It is only through NFAA's ARTS program that dynamic young artists are eligible for the arts Presidential Scholar designation.

NFAA ARTS 2006-2007 offers:

- \$500,000 in cash awards, including individual prizes up to \$10,000
- \$3 million in scholarship opportunities
- All-expense paid NFAA ARTS Week national finals in Miami, Florida for up to 160 National Finalists
- Presidential Scholars in the Arts Award for 20 NFAA ARTS Week Finalists
- \$250 Honorable Mention and \$100 Merit Awards for those not named finalists for NFAA ARTS Week, but ranked in the top 5% and 10% respectively of the registrant pool

For more information, call 1-800-970-ARTS (2787) or visit www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org.

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ABOUT NFAA:

Dedicated to empowering the arts for America's future, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 by businessman and visionary Ted Arison. 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.

Arts Recognition and Talent Search® (ARTS) is a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA). The NFAA ARTS program is sponsored, in part, by: Carnival Cruise Lines; The Coca-Cola Company; Gibson Guitar, Baldwin Piano and The Gibson Foundation; International Association for Jazz Education; The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust; The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Smithsonian Magazine; and SunTrust. ARTS Week 2006 was made possible, in part, by support from American Airlines; the Miami Herald; 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; The State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.