

## PRESS RELEASE

DATE: For Immediate Release, May 20, 2009

RE: Sunriver Music Festival

PHOTO: Photos available

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## Free Young Artist Scholarship Concerts Showcase Central Oregon Musical Talent

The Sunriver Music Festival's successful Young Artist Scholarship program has been awarding music scholarships to deserving young musicians for thirteen years. To date, the Young Artist Scholarship program has awarded over \$186,000 to 92 Central Oregon music students in middle school, high school and college with last year's total scholarships topping \$23,000.

From May 29 - 31, thirty-two classical music students from Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties will compete for music scholarships ranging from \$100 - \$3,000 from the Sunriver Music Festival's Young Artist Scholarship program. Once the rigorous audition and interview process has been completed and scholarships have been awarded, the Central Oregon community will be treated to a free concert showcasing these talented young musicians.

This year's annual Young Artist Scholarship program is offering two concerts that will be held on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Tower Theatre in downtown Bend at 7:00pm and again on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Holy Trinity Church in Sunriver at 4:00pm. Both concerts are free to the public.

"The quality of the Young Artist Scholarship concert performances continues to amaze our audiences year after year," says Pam Beezley of the Sunriver Music Festival. "This year, the Bend concert at the Tower Theatre is on the same night as the downtown First Friday Art Walk. Art lovers that enjoy art and music can enjoy the art displays in the downtown art galleries and come to the Tower for this free concert showcasing Central Oregon's up and coming young musicians."

The Young Artist 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 program in addition to a growing number of individual contributors. The majority of the individual contributions occur at the Sunriver Music Festival's annual fundraiser, Festival Faire (*held on July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Mary McCallum Park in Sunriver*).

### Sunriver Music Festival Young Artist Scholarship Free Concerts

Friday, June 5 – 7:00pm  
Tower Theatre in Bend

Sunday, June 7 – 4:00pm  
Holy Trinity Church in  
Sunriver

“The Young Artist Scholarship program is very well supported by the generous Central Oregon community, who have big hearts for these hard-working young musicians,” adds Pam Beezley. “This year, out of the 32 applicants competing for scholarship money, seven are new applicants to the program. There are a wide array of talented vocalists, pianists, strings, woodwinds and a couple of brass players.”

“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. “Many of these talented young musicians are also winning music competitions outside of Central Oregon. It’s exciting to watch these students grow as musicians over the years and pursue their dreams of becoming professional musicians.”

Young Artist Scholarships are awarded in four categories: 1) College or Music Conservatory tuition, 2) Musical instrument purchase or upgrade, 3) Private lessons, 4) Music camps.

“Over the past couple of years, we have been able to award larger scholarships to college students who are majoring in music,” adds Jodie Bischof. “We felt strongly that with the rising cost of university tuitions, these students needed more assistance, and fortunately, the community funding has grown to support the larger awards.”

The Sunriver Music Festival enjoyed the fruits of this program’s success when three of the Young Artist Scholarship alumni returned to Sunriver to perform with the world-class Sunriver Music Festival orchestra in August 2008. Mezzo-soprano Sarah Mattox and soprano Courtney Huffman performed a full program of opera favorites to a sold out crowd. Sarah Mattox was the first place winner the first year the Young Artist Scholarship program was offered in 1996 while she was a 22 year old music major at Willamette University. Seven-time scholarship recipient, clarinetist Ben Lulich, filled the Sunriver Music Festival orchestra’s Principal Clarinet position for 2008. Ben is currently the Principal Clarinet of the Pacific Symphony.

Jodie Bischof adds, “It is exciting to see the professional music careers many of these students are now pursuing 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 concert or the summer festival or to purchase tickets, call the Sunriver Music Festival ticket office at 541-593-9310, email at [tickets@sunrivermusic.org](mailto:tickets@sunrivermusic.org) or visit the website at [www.sunrivermusic.org](http://www.sunrivermusic.org).

The Sunriver Music Festival's two week summer festival runs from August 12 – 22. Concerts will be at the historic Sunriver Resort Great Hall, Summit High School and the Tower Theatre. Tickets are currently on sale for the summer concerts.