

## PRESS RELEASE

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# 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 fourteen years. To date, the Young Artist Scholarship program has awarded over \$210,000 to 97 Central Oregon music students in middle school, high school and college with last year's total scholarships topping \$25,000.

From May 28 - 30, twenty-eight classical music students from Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties will compete for music scholarships ranging from \$100 - \$3,500 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 two free concerts showcasing these talented young musicians.

This year's annual Young Artist Scholarship program is offering two concerts that will be held on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Tower Theatre in downtown Bend at 7:00pm and again on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Holy Trinity Church in Sunriver at 5:00pm. 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 18<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 – 5:00pm  
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 28 applicants competing for scholarship money, seven are new applicants to the program. There are a wide array of talented vocalists, pianists, strings, woodwinds and brass players.”

“A number of our scholarship applicants apply for scholarships throughout their middle 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 three categories: 1) College or Music Conservatory tuition, 2) Private lessons, 3) Approved music camps.

“This year our Board approved a larger maximum scholarship 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 is enjoying the fruits of this program’s fourteen year success as it watches the Young Artist Scholarship alumni land careers as professional musicians. This summer, seven-time scholarship recipient, clarinetist Ben Lulich, will fill the Sunriver Music Festival orchestra’s Principal Clarinet position. Ben was named Principal Clarinet of the Pacific Symphony in 2008.

Last December, soprano Courtney Huffman performed to a sold out crowd with Maestro Lawrence Leighton Smith and two young up and coming scholarship winners in the Festival’s Christmas Concert. Courtney currently resides in Boston, where she is making waves as a professional opera singer. After taking First Place in the NATS 2008 Artist Award Competition in Nashville, Tennessee, Courtney made her New York solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall in June 2009. She is scheduled to perform at the winner’s recital performance at the NATS National Convention in July 2010. Courtney was an eight-time Young Artist Scholarship winner from 1999 – 2006.

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 10 - 21. 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.