

Young Artist Scholarship Program

The Young Artist Scholarship program was started in 1996 to support Central Oregon's youth continue their dreams of pursuing classical music careers. The Sunriver Music Festival awards \$20,000 in individual music scholarships to youth from Central Oregon to help with private lessons, college or conservatory tuition, summer music camps, or to help purchase or upgrade their musical instrument. In 2007, there were 34 applicants ranging in age from 12 to 21. Fifteen of those were new to the program. 26 received scholarship money. In 2006 the Young Artists Scholarship Program and Concert were featured on OPB's Oregon Art Beat which aired April of 2007.

"Mere words cannot express my deep appreciation for the Sunriver Music Festival Young Artist Scholarship Program. It has generously offered positive encouragement and financial support for many blossoming young classical artists here in the Central Oregon area over the years. It has also assisted local students, like myself, in obtaining our goal of becoming professional classical musicians. So, thank you Sunriver Music Festival, and those who have contributed to the YAS program, for playing such a significant role in helping us to make our dreams come true. You will always have a place in my heart!"

-- Courtney Huffman, graduate student at USC and eight time Young Artist Scholarship recipient.

A concert showcasing the top scholarship recipients is held each summer around the second week in June in Sunriver or in Bend. YAS alumni are invited to perform during the concert. This program is well supported by the Central Oregon community. As a result of the financial support, the YAS program has become one of the largest scholarship programs for young artists in the Northwest. The concerts are very well attended and the community feels a sense of pride watching these talented students grow in their musical abilities.

The application process for these aspiring young music students is very thorough. Jodie Bischof, chair, and the Young Artist Scholarship Committee, designed the application process to help prepare the students for a career in music. The younger students learn how to prepare applications for admission into college music departments and music conservatories. Adjudicators have found the application process to be valuable. In reviewing the applications they gain a better understanding of the students' achievements in music and their plans for the future.

Applicants must have an eye on the future in the field of classical music. Each year, classical music students from Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties submit the comprehensive application, complete with letters of reference, personal essays, school transcripts and a selected repertoire of music representing three different classical periods. First time applicants must also submit a recording of two prepared pieces for review by the eight-panel adjudicator committee before being selected for an audition.

After the auditions during the first weekend in June, students are awarded scholarships between \$100 and \$3000 which will go toward musical instrument purchases or upgrades, music camps, private lessons, or college tuition.

The Young Artist Scholarship program has also caught the eye of OPB's Oregon Art Beat producers who brought a crew in 2006 to Central Oregon to film the scholarship concerts, interview the scholarship recipients and interview Jodie Bischof, program committee chairman. OPB featured the Young Artist Scholarship segment in one of the Oregon Art Beat programs in 2007.

The Young Artist Scholarship Concert is free with a suggested donation of \$10 going directly to the Scholarship fund.

It's exciting to follow the students as they continue in their dreams of being professional musicians and knowing that the Young Artist Scholarship program was an important step for them

in achieving their goals. Two of our YAS students completed master's degree programs in 2007 from Yale and USC. There are music majors at Cleveland Institute of Music, University of Michigan and University of Oregon. A number of the graduating high school seniors have been accepted into wonderful university music programs. These music students are very driven and very talented. This is one concert during the year that no one should miss.

For more information, call the Sunriver Music Festival ticket office 541-593-9310, email at tickets@sunrivermusic.org or visit the website at www.sunrivermusic.org.