



MUSIC CENTER
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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**MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCES SPOTLIGHT AWARDS
PERFORMING ARTS SEMI-FINALISTS**

*91 Talented High School Students From Throughout Southern California
Advance to Next Round in Prestigious Arts Program*

LOS ANGELES – The **Music Center of Los Angeles County** announced the 91 talented high school students chosen as performing arts semi-finalists for the 21st annual **Music Center Spotlight Awards**. These young artists were selected from among 1,326 Southern California students who auditioned in the six categories: ballet, non-classical dance, classical voice, non-classical voice, classical instrumental and jazz instrumental music.

The preliminary round of auditions for the **Music Center Spotlight Awards** took place from October through December. High school students from public and private schools from across Southern California performed before panels of expert judges. Each student receives detailed evaluations on their auditions, intended to help them improve their performing and auditioning technique. After the auditions concluded in each category, the judges selected the top 15 students to advance to the semi-finals.

The 91 semi-finalists receive a unique opportunity to attend special master classes with highly regarded professional artists who offer in-depth insight on performance technique, training, and professional life. Each semi-finalist will audition again before a new panel of judges, who will then select the top two performers to advance to the finals.

The Music Center will announce the 12 performing arts finalists in March. Each young artist will be paired with a mentor/host from the Music Center's **Fraternity of Friends**, a volunteer membership organization comprised of prominent Los Angeles businessmen and entertainment industry professionals who support the Music Center. The mentors provide guidance and support to the students and their families in preparation for the final competition, the **Spotlight Awards show held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on Saturday, May 2, 2009.**

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The **Music Center Spotlight Awards** is one of the nation's most acclaimed performing and visual arts education programs for teens. It offers distinctive learning opportunities in the arts for all participants and awards over \$100,000 in scholarships annually to finalists, semi-finalists and participants who receive honorable mentions. The program has launched numerous professional careers—fifteen finalists are Presidential Scholars and many have joined or performed with professional companies including the Metropolitan Opera, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic. Many alumni return to the program and participate as judges and master class instructors.

Frederic M. Roberts is founding chairman of the **Music Center Spotlight Awards**; Thomas Weinberger is chairman and Walter Grauman is creator/executive producer. The program is a project of the Fraternity of Friends, a volunteer membership organization of men who support the Music Center.

Bank of America is the principal corporate sponsor of the **Music Center Spotlight Awards**; additional support is provided by a generous grant from Helen and Peter Bing, Principal Program Benefactors.

For more information about the Music Center Spotlight Awards program, call 213-972-3300 or visit musiccenter.org.

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2008 SPOTLIGHT AWARDS PERFORMING ARTS SEMI-FINALISTS

Listed by category, name, hometown, instrument (if applicable), grade, school name, home county

BALLET

Ellen Akashi
Fountain Valley
12th, Fountain Valley High
Orange

Skylar Campbell
Ladera Ranch
12th, Tesoro High
Orange

Alana Griffith
Encino
11th, Highland Hall
Los Angeles

Karen Johnson
Orange
11th, Lutheran High of Orange County
Orange

Chris Kaiser
Diamond Bar
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Jamie Kopit
Huntington Beach
10th, Edison High
Orange

Natalie Krakirian
Burbank
10th, California Virtual Academies
Los Angeles

Elle Macy
Huntington Beach
10th, Huntington Beach High
Orange

Taryn Nowels
Huntington Beach
11th, Huntington Beach High
Orange

Jacob Robleto
Covina
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Hannah Schiller
Trabuco Canyon
10th, Eagles Peak Charter
Orange

Sareen Tchekmedyan
Huntington Beach
10th, Edison High
Orange

Nicole Vitale
Aliso Viejo
12th, Aliso Niguel High
Orange

Bryn Watkins
Orange
9th, El Modena High
Orange

Megan Yamashita
Newport Coast
10th, Calvary Chapel High School
Orange

Mable Yiu
Laguna Hills
10th, Laguna Hills High
Orange

CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL

Stephany Bai
Glendale
Violin
11th, Polytechnic
Los Angeles

James Calix
South Pasadena
Clarinet
12th, Loyola High School of Los Angeles
Los Angeles

Tim Calobre
Pasadena
Guitar
10th, Polytechnic
Los Angeles

Austin Chen
Diamond Bar
Piano
9th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Jeannie Chen
Northridge
Piano
12th, Granada Hills Senior High
Los Angeles

Hannah Cho
Los Angeles
Violin
9th, Crossroads
Los Angeles

Andrea Choi
Los Angeles
Piano
9th, Hamilton Senior High
Los Angeles

Richard Dobeck
Santa Monica
Clarinet
12th, Santa Monica High School
Los Angeles

Marley Eder
Santa Clarita
Flute
12th, Academy of the Canyons
Los Angeles

Linda Edsinga
San Pedro
Piano
11th, South Bay Faith Academy
Los Angeles

Dennis Fang
Irvine
Piano
9th, Arnold O. Beckman High School
Orange

Allan Hon
Tustin
Bass
12th, Arnold O. Beckman High School
Orange

Carina Jette
Arcadia
Flute
12th, Flintridge Preparatory
Los Angeles

Michelle Tseng
Huntington Beach
Violin
12th, Orange County High School of the Arts
Orange

Tianpeng (Timmy) Yu
Idyllwild
Piano
10th, Idyllwild Arts Academy
Riverside

CLASSICAL VOICE

Amanda Achen
Corona
12th, Corona High
Riverside

Brianna Beard
Murrieta
12th, Murrieta Valley High
Riverside

Samuel Chan
Idyllwild
10th, Idyllwild Arts Academy
Riverside

Emily Dyer
Cypress
11th, Valley Christian High
Orange

Sophia Kaminski
Pasadena
9th, Flintridge Preparatory
Los Angeles

Ziming Li
Carlsbad
11th, La Costa Canyon High
San Diego

Matthew Lulofs
Irvine,
11th, Orange County High School of the Arts
Orange

Johnathan Ryan McCullough
Sherman Oaks
11th, Notre Dame High School
Los Angeles

CLASSICAL VOICE (Continued)

Hannah McDermott
Manhattan Beach
10th, Mira Costa High School
Los Angeles

Andrew Neumayer
Orange
12th, Tustin High
Orange

Elisa Perez-Selsky
Chino Hills
12th, Chino Hills High School
San Bernardino

Sean Plumb
Los Angeles
11th, Loyola High School of Los Angeles
Los Angeles

Matthew Rosell
Burbank
12th, Burbank High
Los Angeles

Melody Stolpp
Santa Ana
11th, Foothill High
Orange

Melissa Zgouridi
Fullerton
11th, Orange County High School of the Arts
Orange

JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL

Joshua Crumbly
Palmdale
Bass
12th, Quartz Hill High
Los Angeles

John Egizi
Ventura
Trombone
11th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Ventura

Balam Garcia
Los Angeles
Guitar
11th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Ryan Greenfield
Agoura Hills
Saxophone
11th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Michael Gurrola
La Crescenta
Bass
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Levon Henry
South Pasadena
Saxophone
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Cameron Johnson
Los Angeles
Drums
10th, Crossroads
Los Angeles

Justin Klunk
Torrance
Saxophone
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Justin Kopczynski
Glendale
Guitar
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Samuel Miller
Rolling Hills
Drums
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Christopher Mitchell
Northridge
Guitar
12th, Granada Hills Senior High
Los Angeles

Jihyun Moon
Glendale
Piano
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Chase Morrin
San Diego
Piano
10th, Canyon Crest Academy
San Diego

Aaron Provisor
Los Angeles
Piano
12th, Hamilton Senior High
Los Angeles

Maximillian Zooi
South Pasadena
Saxophone
11th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

NON-CLASSICAL DANCE

Kevin Le
Hermosa Beach
11th, Bishop Montgomery High
Los Angeles

Ellen Akashi
Fountain Valley
12th, Fountain Valley High
Orange

Ryan Anderson-Clugston
Lake Elsinore
12th, Temescal Canyon High
Riverside

Jordan Casanova
Chino Hills
11th, Ayala High
San Bernardino

Jason Cota
Los Angeles
12th, Coast High (Alternative)
Los Angeles

Rai Garcia
Tujunga
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Renee Kester
Seal Beach
10th, Orange County High School of the Arts
Orange

Jared Marks
Lancaster
12th, Idyllwild Arts Academy
Los Angeles

Elizabeth Feliz Martinez
Los Angeles
12th, East L.A. Alternative Education Center
Los Angeles

Scott Myrick
Yorba Linda
11th, Esperanza High
Orange

Ginny Ngo
Alhambra
11th, Alhambra High
Los Angeles

Joshua Rodriguez
Highland Park
12th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Evan Schwarz
Calabasas
11th, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Los Angeles

Gabrielle Segall
West Hills
11th, New Community Jewish High School
Los Angeles

Sareen Tchekmedyian
Huntington Beach
10th, Edison High
Orange

NON-CLASSICAL VOICE

Jacqueline Boyadzhyan
Shadow Hills
12th, Burbank High
Los Angeles

Victoria Dumapias
Fontana
11th, Etiwanda High
San Bernardino

Alana Grossman
Camarillo
11th, Newbury Park High
Ventura

Nina Herzog
Loma Linda
12th, Orange County High School of the Arts
San Bernardino

NON-CLASSICAL VOICE (Continued)

Derek Klena
West Covina
12th, South Hills High
Los Angeles

Ziming Li
Carlsbad
11th, La Costa Canyon High
San Diego

Matthew McFarland
Manhattan Beach
12th, Mira Costa High School
Los Angeles

Alex Mendoza
San Gabriel
12th, Monrovia High
Los Angeles

Melissa Myatt
Inglewood
12th, City Honors High School
Los Angeles

Minhdang Nguyen
Buena Park
12th, Kennedy (John F.) High
Orange

Erika Peterson
Laguna Niguel
12th, Dana Hills High
Orange

Daniel Reardon
South Pasadena
12th, Polytechnic
Los Angeles

Matthew Rosell
Burbank
12th, Burbank High
Los Angeles

Hannah Schwartz
San Clemente
11th, Orange County High School of the Arts
Orange

Ryan Steinberg
Los Angeles
11th, Palisades Charter High School
Los Angeles