



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2009

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR
MUSIC CENTER SPOTLIGHT AWARDS PROGRAM

All Southern California High School Artists Invited to Apply

LOS ANGELES —The Music Center of Los Angeles County invites Southern California high school performers, artists, and photographers to apply for the **22nd Annual Music Center Spotlight Awards**. The program is one of the nation’s most acclaimed performing and visual arts education programs for teens, offering training in the arts and awarding over \$100,000 in scholarships annually to finalists, honorable mentions, and semifinalists.

The **Music Center Spotlight Awards** program is free and open to all students who attend high school in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties at time of deadline. **Applications and information are available at musiccenter.org or by calling (213) 972-3300. Performing Arts applications must be received online or postmarked by no later than Thursday, October 1, 2009. Visual Arts applications must be received online or postmarked by no later than Tuesday, December 1, 2009.**

The **Music Center Spotlight Awards** program has launched numerous professional careers—fourteen 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.

High school students audition in the Performing Arts categories of ballet, non-classical dance, classical voice, non-classical voice, classical instrumental, and jazz instrumental before professional judges who then select 15 semifinalists in each category. All semifinalists attend master classes and audition to become one of two finalists in each art form. The 12 performance finalists—two from each category—will compete at the 22nd Annual Music Center Spotlight Awards Gala Performance on Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Ahmanson Theatre in Downtown Los Angeles. Grand Prize Finalists, (1st place and runner-up), receive \$5,000 and \$4,000 scholarships. Honorable Mentions receive \$250 scholarships and Semifinalists receive \$100 scholarships.

The Visual Arts categories are photography (black/white, color and digital) and two-dimensional design (works of art with height and width but no depth, using drawing, painting, computer generated or mixed media). All visual arts participants will be invited to attend master classes and museum tours. Grand Prize Finalists, (1st place and runner-up), receive \$5,000 and \$4,000 scholarships, and will be showcased at a Southern California gallery. 1st place and runner-ups are announced onstage at the Music Center Spotlight Awards Gala Performance at the Ahmanson Theatre.

Frederic M. Roberts is founding chairman of the **Music Center Spotlight Awards** and Walter Grauman is creator/executive producer.

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