

May 1 - 15 • 2007

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Hey, Mozart! NM selects Composers

The original melodies of 16 young composers have been selected for the 2007 Hey, Mozart! New Mexico compact disc recording and will perform their compositions on September 7, 2007 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque.

Pre-teens from across the state submitted 106 original melodies they composed for the second year of the project. This year the quality of the submissions was so high that an Honorable Mention category was created, according to David Felberg, the Hey, Mozart! New Mexico music director. The project is a partnership with Hartwick College in New York where composer-conductor Alejandro Ruty developed the annual event.

The Greater Albuquerque area provided a number of selected composers including Jocelyn Boyack, 6; Stephanie Brener, 11; Dylan Cuellar, 10; Angela Jerkins, 11; Simon Laird, 11; Maia Scarpetta, 12; Tankred Steinbach, 9; and Maya Vansuch, 11, of Albuquerque; Benjamin Harris, 13, Bosque Farms; Christopher Musson, 12, Rio Rancho; John Paul Norman, 11, Corrales; and Ian Kingsolver, 9, Placitas. From the northern part of the state came melodies composed by Sierra Stackhouse, 13, Aztec, and Sophia Wickert, 11, Las Vegas. Quintin Dean, 12, and Phillip Miller, 11, both of Las Cruces, complete the Hey, Mozart! New Mexico composer list.

The composers will be recognized at an awards ceremony and free public concert on Friday, September 7, 2007, at the Journal Theater of the Roy E. Disney Center for Performing Arts at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Each child will perform his or her melody after which members of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra will play the orchestrated version. The 2007 CD of the arranged versions of their melodies will be released at the free reception in honor of the young composers following the concert.

“As I listened to all of the children's melodies, I couldn't help but feel proud of the incredibly inventive music that was coming from them,” said Felberg. “This is intergenerational music making. The compositions of the 16 children will be arranged for full orchestra by a team of experienced musicians including Katie Harlow, Eric Walters and me from New Mexico and other musicians in New York under the direction of Alejandro Ruty, artistic director and developer of the project. The children partner with us and see where their efforts could go in the future.” The orchestrated versions of the New Mexico kids' original compositions will be recorded to CD by the Hey, Mozart! Orchestra under the direction of Felberg, who is also the associate concertmaster of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra.

Hey, Mozart! New Mexico is looking for opportunities to present the children in their local communities as well. For further information on the Hey, Mozart New Mexico! project visit our website www.heymozartnm.org.