



## 2013 Young Artist Competition

Pianist Amy Wood was the instrumental winner of this year's Young Artist Competition, while soprano Megan Walton was awarded first place among the vocalists. The Competition, sponsored by the Fredericksburg Festival for the Performing Arts, is held annually for classically -trained students of instruments and voice. The Competition's second place winner was cellist, Luke Payne, and for the first time for a vocalist, Analisa Wall, claimed the third prize. Amy, Megan and Analisa are all seniors at Stafford High School. Luke is a home-schooled junior and attends Germanna Community College.

Twenty-nine students entered the Competition in December, and auditions were held on January 10 and 11 at Chancellor Baptist Church in Spotsylvania. A team of six judges selected thirteen performers to perform at the Finals Concert held on January 19<sup>th</sup> where the winners were selected. First-place winners received \$500 scholarship awards while second- and third-place winners received scholarships of \$300 and \$200 respectively.

The Fredericksburg Festival for the Performing Arts, in partnership with the Rappahannock Pops Orchestra, encourages the development of young musicians in Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties. Each year the Competition's first place winners are invited to solo with the Rappahannock Pops Orchestra. Winners of the 2012 Young Artists Competition, pianist Andrew Liang and soprano Jamie Hauber, will be performing with the Pops Orchestra on Saturday, March 2, at 8 PM at Grace Church. Additionally, all four winners were invited to perform at the three FFPA Chamber Festival concerts held June 4, 6 and 7 at St. George Episcopal Church.

Kirk Wilke, conductor of the Rappahannock Pops, served as lead judge for this year's Competition. All judges contribute their time to the Competition and are highly regarded musicians in the area. The vocal judges were Mandy Carr and Susan Thompson while the instrumental judges were Chris Abeel and Lisa Leung for strings and McKenneth King for piano. Contestants were judged on various aspects of their musicianship, technical ability, and presentation displayed in their audition and final concert performances.

Students performing at the preliminary auditions included seven sopranos and 22 instrumentalists (violins, viola, cellos, flute and marimba). In addition to the Competition winners, finalists included Linjiang Han, piano; Caroline Dunmire, violin; Karen Me, piano; Sarah Belton, soprano; Anna Prothmann, piano; Matthew Zisi, piano; Christopher Tillman, violin; Sarah Griffin, piano; Monica Brito, flute.

Contestants must be age 18 and younger and come from Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, Caroline, Culpeper, Orange, and Westmoreland.

Cornelia Bryant, a long-time supporter of the FFPA and previous board member, has graciously underwritten the Competition for nine consecutive years. Chancellor Baptist Church and music director McKenneth King have hosted the Competition since its first year in 2004.

Fredericksburg Festival for the Performing Arts has a long-time commitment to children in the greater Fredericksburg area and has sponsored this Competition for ten years. Along with the Young Artists Competition, FFPA sponsors the VA Opera in local schools every year and provides a variety of other activities and events related to the dramatic arts. FFPA has brought world-class musicians, vocalists, and performers to the area for over 25 years and supports local young artists who are the next generation of performers.