



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Young Artist of the Year Award Winners Announced

The Topeka Performing Arts Center is pleased to announce that the 15th Annual Young Artist of the Year award ceremony will be held Friday, May 1 at 6:30p.m. The ceremony celebrating the artistic achievements of local students will be held in 'The Edge' – Teen Room at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library.

The Young Artist of the Year Awards program was founded in 1994, and is sponsored by T&T Management owned by Steve & Karen Tyler. The program was conceived to recognize Shawnee County high school seniors who excelled in fine arts and celebrate their contributions to the enrichment of their schools and their community, and to encourage students' continued achievement in the arts. The six scholarships are sponsored by T&T Management and are awarded to the six highest scores based on the judges' rankings of the artist's work.

Any Shawnee County high school junior can be nominated in one of ten awards categories: instrumental music, musical theater, vocal music, dramatic theater, ballet/classical/modern dance, tap/jazz/other dance, visual arts, technical theater, creative writing and community services in the arts.

We would like to thank the judges that reviewed the nominees' and selected the winners: Patrick Suzeau, Professor of Dance, University of Kansas; Julie Gifford, Music Appreciation Instructor, Allen County CC; Ye Wang, Assistant Professor of Art, Washburn University; Karen Hastings, Founder, Karen Hastings Players; Marti Mihalyi, instructor of English, Baker University; Reginald Pittman, Associate Professor of Music, Kansas State University.

Awards will be handed out for the winner of each of the ten categories. In addition, six scholarships will be awarded; five scholarships for \$500 and one for \$1,000.

The 2009 Young Artists of the Year award winners by category are:

Ballet/Lyrical/Modern: Juliana Sollars, Washburn Rural High School

Dramatic Theater: Sara Stueve, Hayden High School

Instrumental Music: Skyler Schmidt, Seaman High School

Musical Theater: Randy Rhoten, Washburn Rural High School

Tap/Jazz/Other Dance: Rachel Christiansen, Topeka High School

Technical Theater: Elizabeth Kresie, Topeka West High School

Visual Arts: Andrew Martin, Topeka West High School

Vocal Music: Lauren Wheeler, Washburn Rural High School

The 2009 Young Artists of the Year scholarship winners* are:

Juliana Sollars, Washburn Rural High School - \$1,000

Elizabeth Kresie, Topeka West High School - \$500

Andrew Martin, Topeka West High School - \$500

Skyler Schmidt, Seaman High School - \$500

Sara Stueve, Hayden High School - \$500

Lauren Wheeler, Washburn Rural High School - \$500

**Scholarship winners did not need to be category winner to be considered for a scholarship.*

Other Students nominated include:

William Dale, Topeka High School; Katie Fasl, Hayden High School; Damian Podilla, Topeka West High School; Randy Rhoten, Washburn Rural High School; Peter Ruby, Silver Lake High School; Noura Saadi, Topeka West High School; Joe Schoonover, Washburn Rural High School; Kelsey Scrinopskie, Topeka West High School; Becca Sells, Seaman High School; Steven Stanek, Washburn Rural High School; Alexis Wiley-Camfield, Topeka West High School.

The Topeka Performing Arts Center is managed by VenuWorks of Topeka. VenuWorks is well known for its success in providing full management services for arenas, theaters, and convention centers, which are primarily under the governance of municipalities, counties, colleges, and universities. VenuWorks, headquartered in Ames, Iowa, is the third largest facilities management company in the United States, serving 28 facilities in 15 communities throughout the US. It also manages food and beverage operations and provides event booking and promotion services. VenuWorks also performs feasibility studies and consulting work for clients with existing and prospective public assembly facilities.