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KMFA Announces Young Violinist Competition Winner

Congratulations to Phillip Finkle of the McCallum Fine Arts Academy Orchestra!



1st place winner -- Phillip Finkle (10th grade)

Shown above with his mother Beth Finkle, the KMFA violin, and Maestro Peter Bay

Tuesday, March 17, 2009–Austin, TX–KMFA 89.5 FM congratulates Phillip Finkle, winner of the 2009 KMFA Young Violinist Competition & Award held at the KMFA studios on Saturday, March 7, 2009. In his sophomore year at McCallum High School, Phillip Finkle has been awarded the year-long use of the KMFA violin, handcrafted by William Townsend and donated by The Amati Foundation. The violin is a replica of a 1742 Guiseppe Guarneri del Gesu violin, and is valued at over \$8,000.

Olivia Erwin (11th grade) won 2nd place, and Michael Sheehan (11th grade) won 3rd place. Honorable mentions go to Konner Gonzalez (10th grade) and Michael Meador (11th grade).

Prizes were awarded to students based on skill level of performance, as well as a written essay. The judges for the performance portion of the contest included Maestro Peter Bay, Music Director and Conductor of The Austin Symphony; Michelle Schumann, Artistic Director of the Austin Chamber Music Center; Jennifer Bourianoff, Assistant Concertmaster for the Austin Symphony; and Aurelien Petillot, Founder and Director of Viola by Choice.

About the competition, Peter Bay said, “It was a pleasure to hear these talented and enthusiastic young violinists, and I believe strongly that their participation in the KMFA Competition will help them achieve even higher musical goals. The Competition deserves everyone’s support and a very long life.”

The contest winner, Phillip Finkle, is Concertmaster for the McCallum Chamber Orchestra, and assists with coaching McCallum's Ninth Grade and Concert Orchestras. Phillip aspires to become a recognized talent within an orchestra, as well as in solo work. Said Phillip, "Thank you so much for both the opportunity, and the honor, of being part of the KMFA Young Violinist Competition."

As part of this year's award, Phillip also receives a special invitation to a master class with Anne Akiko Meyers, one of the world's premiere concert violinists, who will be in Austin performing as part of the UT School of Music's Starling Distinguished Violinist Series in April. Additional prizes include tickets to Austin Symphony concerts, as well as an Austin Chamber Music Center Festival Workshop scholarship and Season Pass, a \$200 scholarship with Blackerby Violin Shop for music and supplies for the year, and repairs and adjustments to the violin provided by Sandro Cocco Violin Studio.

Joan Kobayashi, General Manager for KMFA, offers: "This award is designed to loan a fine instrument to outstanding young musicians as they pursue their education in music. We're thrilled to congratulate Phillip as our first-ever winner and we hope this experience will have a truly positive effect on his continued performance and interest in classical music. We are definitely looking forward to following Phillip's progress throughout the coming year – and well into the future."

As part of the McCallum Fine Arts Academy Orchestra, first-prize winner Phillip Finkle and the KMFA violin will perform at New York City's famed Carnegie Hall this June as part of the Masterworks Series. In advance of their Carnegie Hall performance, the McCallum Fine Arts Academy Orchestra will offer a preview of some of what will be performed in a benefit concert Friday, April 3rd at The Long Center. The Long Center benefit performance will mark Mr. Finkle's first public performance with the KMFA Violin.

In support of McCallum's trip to Carnegie Hall, KMFA will offer a sweepstakes prize during their upcoming membership drive to win a trip to New York for two. All donations received between Monday, March 23 and Friday, March 27 will be eligible to win the Road to Carnegie Hall Giveaway, a four-day, three-night excursion to Manhattan that includes airfare, hotel, entrance to Carnegie Hall Performance, and more.

For additional information on KMFA's Young Violinist Competition & Award, please visit www.kmfa.org. To learn how to donate to the Carnegie Hall Performance Fund, visit the McCallum Orchestra Performance Fund website at www.macorchestrafund.org. (You may also contact Fiona Cherbak, ThemePark Studios, 512/916-9633 or fiona@themeparkstudios.com, for more information in reference to the McCallum Carnegie Hall Performance Fund.)

About Classical 89.5, KMFA: Classical 89.5 KMFA is a listener-supported, community radio station – incorporated in 1967 – relying on the majority of its funding from direct listener and business contributions. A noncommercial, all-classical format station, serving an average of 90,000 listeners each week, KMFA features both local programming and nationally distributed programming from Public Radio International, American Public Media and National Public Radio. For more information on KMFA, visit www.kmfa.org

About The Amati Foundation: The Amati Foundation supports the stringed arts through its innovative loan program, which puts high quality instruments into the hands of young performers, and through The Amati Foundation Historical Collection, a recreation of the world's most important violins, violas, celli, and double basses. For more information, visit www.amatifoundation.org