



INSPIRING FUTURE  
GENERATIONS OF SINGERS

**PRESS CONTACT:**

Linda McAlister, Executive Director  
Linda@schmidtvocalarts.org

## **Jordan McAndrew Wins Pennsylvania Schmidt Vocal Competition**

*Modified “virtual” competition model gives high school singers the opportunity to still win cash awards and potential scholarships*

**(Pittsburgh, PA) May 2, 2020** – On May 2, 2020 the Schmidt Vocal Competition, in conjunction with its Pennsylvania cohort host, Temple University announced winners of its modified virtual singing competition for sophomore, junior, and senior high school singers. This year’s first prize winner was Jordan McAndrew, from Pottstown, PA who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of "L'heure exquise" by Reynaldo Hahn.

Additional winners were: Adriana Stepien, Second Place; Alena Slak, Third Place; Havyn Fish, Michael Goltry, Abigail Lewin, Jordan Marie Lewis, Lena Molyneux, Joseph Murphy, Alan Rendzak, Finalist; Holly Butler, Madeline Helm, Gwyneth Rix, Caroline Zager, Encouragement Award; Michael Goltry, Most Promising Sophomore.

Due to the closing of college and university campuses and the stay-at-home orders in place across the country, Schmidt Vocal Arts quickly pivoted in March to create a modified “virtual submission” model for its Spring 2020 Schmidt Vocal Competitions. Several signature elements traditionally associated with the Schmidt Vocal Competition were not possible in the virtual model – such as in-person, on-stage live performances, master classes led by renown members of the Schmidt Vocal Artist Network between the two rounds of competition, and connecting with fellow competitors throughout the day. However, competitors in the virtual cohort were able to showcase their talent as well as come together to hear from judges and celebrate the winners in a Facebook LIVE awards ceremony.

“We are so proud of Jordan McAndrew and the many other talented singers who participated in this year’s virtual Schmidt Vocal Competition,” said Linda McAlister, Executive Director of Schmidt Vocal Arts. “Many of our competitors work hard all year to compete in this prestigious competition. We wanted to ensure they still had the chance to compete, earn cash awards, and become eligible for scholarship opportunities. In times of uncertainty, experiences like this are more important than ever.”

**A Schmidt Vocal Arts**  
6 East 5th Street, Suite 406  
Covington, KY 41011

**T (513) 783-2583**  
**E info@schmidtvocalarts.org**  
**W www.schmidtvocalarts.org**





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“Recently, I have been having some struggles with my voice,” remarks Jordan McAndrew. “I actually was not expecting to win, but to just to be happy for who did. When I heard my phone number, I couldn’t help but tear up because of the joy. It made me feel confident about my voice again, which I haven’t truly felt in a long time. So, my deepest and sincerest thanks. My parents have always been so supportive of my passions. I always love entering these competitions not only to sing because it’s what I love to do, but also to give back to my parents who have done everything they can to get me where I am now.”

Schmidt Vocal Competition plans to return to its live, in-person competition model on the campus of Temple University next Spring. For more information, visit [www.schmidtvocalarts.org](http://www.schmidtvocalarts.org).

### **About Schmidt Vocal Competition**

The Schmidt Vocal Competition has impacted the lives of thousands of young students over the past two decades, offering awards, scholarships, and educational experiences for more than 150 students annually. The Schmidt Vocal Competition is held annually in 17 locations throughout the U.S. in partnership with regional colleges and universities and is open to sophomore, junior, and senior high school singers. Competitors perform in front of a live audience in two rounds and participate in educational master classes with some of today’s most renowned professionals between the preliminary and finalist rounds.

Schmidt Competition participants have gone on to gain entrance into the world’s finest music schools and include winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the George London Competition, the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Competition, Classical Singer, and the National Opera Association Award. The Schmidt Vocal Competition is funded by the William E. Schmidt Foundation, which encourages aspiring young singers to pursue their passion in vocal arts and provides support and inspiration to future generations of singers.

**About Jordan McAndrew**– Jordan McAndrew is a Junior at Coventry Christian Schools. She has been singing since she can remember and has been performing since she was eight years old. She longs to be on the stage and enjoys every moment she has spent there. Her favorite roles to play have been, Katherine in Steel River Playhouses Newsies, Catherine in SRP’s Pippin, Cosette in SALT Performing Arts Les Mis and Young Miriam in Sight and Sound Theaters’ Moses. She has been extremely blessed to study voice with Julie Eurillo, and with her teaching has won first place in competitions such as NATS and Rotary. Her dream is to perform on Broadway in a show she has written. She would like to thank her teachers, family, and most importantly God for everything they’ve done.

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