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Alasdair Payten Wins California Schmidt Vocal Competition

The University of California-Berkeley hosts prestigious singing competition that presents thousands of dollars in awards each year

(Berkeley, CA) March 31, 2019 – On March 23, the University of California-Berkeley hosted the Schmidt Vocal Competition, a prestigious singing competition for sophomore, junior, and senior high school singers that provides awards to more than 150 people annually. This year’s first prize winner was Alasdair Payten, from San Francisco, CA who was awarded \$2,500 for his performance of “Sweeter than Roses” by Henry Purcell.

Additional winners were: Darby Schmidt, Second Place; Leland Smith, Third Place; Lily Bobrick, Naomi Friedland, Isabella Lopez, Lea Nayak, finalists; Audrey Chandler, Nia Spaulding, Benjamin Tripp, Encouragement Awards; Leland Smith, Best Sophomore; Grace Connallon, Broadway Bound.

“Congratulations to Alasdair Payten and the many other talented singers who participated in this year’s Schmidt Vocal Competition,” said Ben Smolder, Director of the Schmidt Vocal Competition. “These students work hard to practice and prepare for the competition. We’re committed to helping them pursue their passion. The Schmidt Vocal Competition offers students the opportunity to perform in front of live audiences, receive invaluable instruction from world-renowned artists and professionals, and connect with mentors and experienced singers to explore a career in classical singing.”

“The Schmidt Competition is truly an extraordinary experience, unparalleled in any other competition in the US,” said first prize winner, Alasdair Payten. “The faculty, judges, and participants create a welcoming environment in which music and artistry thrive. Through the William E. Schmidt Foundation, I have been exposed to a network of supportive colleagues and mentors, and winning the Schmidt Competition has validated my dreams of going into a career in classical singing. I believe it is crucial for young singers to compete in competitions such as Schmidt, as a means to further their technique and stage presence, but also to meet peers with similar aspirations. I strongly recommend the Schmidt Competition to any young singer who is serious about a future in singing.”

About Schmidt Vocal Competition

The Schmidt Vocal Competition has impacted the lives of thousands of young students over the past two decades, offering awards, scholarship and educational experiences for more than 150 students annually. The Schmidt Vocal Competition is held annually in 16 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 final 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 Alasdair Payten

Alasdair Payten is a young tenor, native to San Francisco. He is a student at the Bay Area Vocal Academy and currently studies privately under Dr. Justin Montigne. Alongside an active performance schedule, he enjoys participating local and national competitions as a way to meet new colleagues who share a common love for opera and classical music. Alasdair is grateful for his family and friends, who have always supported him and his dreams.

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