



**PRESS CONTACT:**

Linda McAlister

[schmidtcompinfo@gmail.com](mailto:schmidtcompinfo@gmail.com) | (513) 529-3046

**Elisabeth Kinghorn Wins Nevada Schmidt Vocal Competition**

*The University of Nevada-Las Vegas hosts prestigious singing competition that presents thousands of dollars in awards each year*

**(Las Vegas, NV) April 3, 2019** – On March 30, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas 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 Elisabeth Kinghorn, from Oro Valley, AZ who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of “Il bacio” by Luigi Arditi.

Additional winners were: Isabel Ferguson, Second Place; Aaron Golden, Third Place; Anna Grace Agrawal, Grace Bernard, Genevieve Dilan, Elizah Knight, Eilyssa Maclean, Elizabeth Minerman, Christian Shelton, finalists; Elizah Knight, Morgan Nieser, Encouragement Awards; Maria Bollinger, Best Sophomore.

“Congratulations to Elisabeth Kinghorn 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.”

“I competed in the Schmidt competition once before as a sophomore and while I didn’t win, it was a great learning experience for me,” said first prize winner, Elisabeth Kinghorn. “Since then, I have worked extremely hard to reach the goals I have set for myself and have done all I could to reach my full potential as a vocal artist. To come back this year and win was an experience I’ll never forget. Three years of hard work and dedication prepared me to come back and compete and it is so special to look back and see how far I’ve come. I am so grateful for the Schmidt competition and how it has encouraged me to work for my dreams.”

### **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 Elisabeth Kinghorn**

Elisabeth Kinghorn, a senior at Ironwood Ridge High School in Oro Valley, Arizona, has been studying classically for four years with Stephanie Fox. Elisabeth competes in district and regional NATS where she has placed and won several times for classical, musical theatre, and contemporary genres. Elisabeth participates in several local music programs including regional and state choirs, school and community musical theatre, and her high school’s competitive a cappella group. She has also attended national intensive programs, most recently, the Curtis Institute of Music Mikael Eliassen Summerfest in Philadelphia. Elisabeth plans to continue her study of classical music in college.

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