



PRESS CONTACT:

Linda McAlister

schmidtcompinfo@gmail.com | (513) 529-3046

Sophia Baete Wins Tennessee Schmidt Vocal Competition

Vanderbilt University hosts prestigious singing competition that presents thousands of dollars in awards each year

(Nashville, TN) February 6, 2019 – On February 2, Vanderbilt University 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 Sophia Baete, from Louisville, KY who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of “Intorno all’idol mio” by Antonio Cesti.

Additional winners were: Lauren Maynus, Second Place; Reed Gnepper, Third Place; Laura Carpenter, Henry Denniston, Spencer Domer, Lorelei McDaniel, Alicia Reeder, Cameron Swindler, finalists; Molly Barclay, Dana Karson, Daniela Pepe, Isabella Stachurski, Encouragement Awards; Ty’Ria Rounds, Best Sophomore.

“Congratulations to Sophia Baete 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.”

“Participating in the Schmidt Vocal Competition has been one of the biggest highlights of my vocal experiences. I am honored to have won first place,” said first prize winner,

Sophia Baete. “The talent at the competition is enormous, but to meet other vocalists and learn about their journeys quickly helped me realize I am part of a wonderful community. I am so grateful to the Schmidt family for their support of young artists. I feel like I have lifelong connections and friendships after this competition.”

Next season’s Tennessee Schmidt Vocal Competition will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2019 in the Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall at the Blair School of Music of Vanderbilt University.

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 Sophia Baete

Sophia Baete is a Junior at the Youth Performing Arts School in Louisville, KY. She’s a 2019 Schmidt Vocal Competition winner and studies with Dr. Mark Kano. She will be working with the MET Opera Guild Program and attended Boston University’s Tanglewood Institute where she played the lead role in Dido and Aeneas and performed under the direction of famous Composer, John Williams. Other performances include Carnegie Hall (National Performance Choir), high school guest artist with University of Louisville Chamber Choir and roles in multiple musicals. Sophia’s dream is to study vocal performance and perform on stages around the world.

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