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**Lily Guthrie Wins Washington Schmidt Vocal Competition**

*The University of Washington hosts prestigious singing competition  
that presents thousands of dollars in awards each year*

**(Seattle, WA) May 17, 2019** – On May 11, the University of Washington 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 Lily Guthrie, from DuPont, WA who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of "Il bacio" by Luigi Arditi.

Additional winners were: Anna Bakun, Second Place; Inayah Raheem, Third Place; Jaydon Beleford, Lily Benson, Sophia Janssen-Madden, Alexandra Orozco, Carmen Souza, finalists; Emma Barnier, Mateo Nigretto Ellner, Alexandra Orozco, Encouragement Awards; Thomas Benis, Broadway Bound Award; Emily Amesquita, Best Sophomore.

"Congratulations to Lily Guthrie 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 feel humbled to have been selected for this wonderful honor,” said first prize winner, Lily Guthrie. “It almost felt unreal because of the extraordinary soloists who performed. It has encouraged me to continue my journey through music and grow into the musician I strive to be. It was important for me to compete to gain performing experience with amazing vocalists while growing my self-confidence and artistry. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to partake in this wonderful competition.”

### **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 Lily Guthrie**

Lily Guthrie is a senior choir student at Steilacoom High School and will be attending Western Washington University in the Fall of 2019. She has studied with Miya Higashiyama for four years, who has inspired in her a love for opera performance. Along with participating in the Schmidt Vocal Competition, she has also performed in the PLU Summer Opera Workshop in 2018, Washington State Solo/Ensemble Contest from 2017-2019, and ACDA Senior Women's Choir in 2018. She intends to major in Music Education and hopes to one day live up to the role models that have helped her become the musician she is today.

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