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Contact Information:

Laura Farmer, Media Contact

laurafarmer@yourmarketpoint.com | (443) 223-0839

Schmidt Vocal Arts to Offer Expanded Programming for High School Singers

William E. Schmidt Foundation Increases Funding and Support for Young Classical Singers Nationwide

(Covington, Ky.) August 20, 2019 – William E. Schmidt Foundation has renewed its commitment to supporting young singers, launching **Schmidt Vocal Arts** as the umbrella entity for its full range of vocal programs. For 27 years, the Foundation has encouraged young students to pursue their passion for classical singing and the vocal arts. Under the **Schmidt Vocal Arts** brand, the Foundation will expand its programming, competitions, and college scholarships for young singers. In doing so, it will scale its operations to bring on full-time staff for greater impact and more comprehensive support for students, teachers and the broader vocal community.

As of September 1, 2019, Linda McAlister will assume the newly created, full-time role of Executive Director for Schmidt Vocal Arts, overseeing the organization's breadth of programming. These programs currently include the Schmidt Vocal Competition, Schmidt Vocal Institute, Schmidt Vocal Scholarships, new education and training opportunities, and a growing alumni network--with more on the way. An accomplished soprano, Ms. McAlister has studied both International Business and Vocal Performance and holds a Masters of Music degree. She brings a breadth of experience in arts administration, including various roles for the William E. Schmidt Foundation's vocal programs, Executive Director of SongFest at Colburn, Artistic Administrator of the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie, and Artistic Coordinator at the Steans Music Institute at the Ravinia Festival.

"We are honored to have Linda assume this new role as Executive Director as we expand the Schmidt Vocal Arts programs," says Board Chair Chester Schmidt. "What began in Indiana over two decades ago as a single voice competition for high school students has expanded into multiple programs and a commitment to help young singers pursue their passion for the vocal arts."

Since those early years, the Schmidt Vocal Competition has grown to include 17 competitions held annually in locations throughout the United States. Building on the competition's success, the Foundation began offering a two-week residential summer program, the Schmidt Vocal Institute, which brings together talented high school singers to learn and train with some of the industry's most renowned professional artists and clinicians.

"I'm excited to lead this next phase of growth for Schmidt Vocal Arts," remarks Executive Director Linda McAlister. "We have developed strong relationships and partnerships with professional artists, educators, and colleges and universities across the country. Working together, we have the opportunity to inspire future generations of vocal artists by providing expanded, transformative experiences for young singers."

About Schmidt Vocal Arts

Schmidt Vocal Arts has impacted the lives of thousands of young students over the past two decades, offering awards, scholarships, and educational experiences for more than 400 students annually. Schmidt Vocal Arts programs include: Schmidt Vocal Competition, a day-long competition held annually in 17 locations throughout the U.S. for aspiring high school singers to perform, learn, and compete for cash awards; Schmidt Vocal Institute, a two-week intensive summer program, that gives young singers opportunities to participate in voice lessons with esteemed professionals, master classes and coaching with world-renowned guest artists, and both solo and ensemble performance opportunities; Schmidt Vocal Education provides regional programs for singers and teachers to learn and challenge themselves, participate in performance experiences, and continue formal education and training through intensive workshops; and Schmidt Vocal Scholarships provides need-based support for talented singers continuing their professional vocal education. Many accomplished Schmidt Vocal Arts alumni have gone on to pursue musical degrees at leading music schools and enjoy successful careers in the arts. Schmidt Vocal Arts is funded by the William E. Schmidt Foundation, which encourages aspiring young singers to pursue their passion in vocal arts. For more information visit www.schmidtvocalarts.org.

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