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Adam Holthaus Wins Ohio Schmidt Vocal Competition

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

(Oxford, OH) October 15, 2019 – On October 12, 2019, Miami 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 Adam Holthaus, from Chagrin Falls, OH, who was awarded \$2,500 for his performance of "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" by Ben Moore.

Additional winners were: Eric Riedel, Second Place; Claire O'Shaughnessy, Third Place; Gillian Beckman, Sarah Benson, Jeremy Hardjono, Calynn Kimberlin, and Nathan Weagraff, finalist; Victor Li and Nathan Weagraff, Encouragement Award; Jeremy Hardjono, Broadway Bound; Jenna Reitler, Most Promising Sophomore.

"We are so proud of Adam and the many other talented singers who participated in this year's Schmidt Vocal Competition," said Linda McAlister, Executive Director of the Schmidt Vocal Arts. "Each year the Schmidt Vocal Competition provides young singers with the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience, participate in master classes with world-renowned artists and professionals, and connect with both their peers and mentors who will help foster their continued vocal growth."

"Winning the Schmidt Vocal Competition has been the one of the most important accomplishments of my high school career," remarks Adam Holthaus. "Since this was my first competition, I was unsure what to expect, but I had nothing to fear. Everyone was helpful and kind, and all of the other competitors were nice and enthusiastic. Overall, I am grateful that I was allowed this opportunity and hope I can one day give back what the Schmidt Foundation has taught me."

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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 17 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 finalist rounds.

Schmidt Vocal 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 Awards, Classical Singer, and the National Opera Association Award. The Schmidt Vocal Competition is a program from Schmidt Vocal Arts, which encourages aspiring young singers to pursue their passion in vocal arts and provides support and inspiration to future generations of singers.

About Adam Holthaus

Adam Holthaus is a senior at University School in Hunting Valley, Ohio. He sings in the Glee Club and plays double bass in the orchestra. Adam has been studying voice privately for 6 years with Kyle Kelvington in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Adam got his introduction into the Schmidt Foundation as a participant in the 2019 Schmidt Vocal Institute hosted at Miami University.

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