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Emilio Vasquez Wins Texas Schmidt Vocal Competition

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

(Waco, TX) October 15, 2019 – On October 5, 2019, Baylor 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 Emilio Vasquez, from Manvel, TX, who was awarded \$2,500 for his performance of "Ombra mai fu" from *Serse* by G.F. Handel.

Additional winners were: Kanade Motomura, Second Place; Sebastian Pineda, Third Place; Shayne Grant, Nidia Guevara-Nolasco, Kinsey Neas, and Molly Snodgrass, finalist; Bradley Boatright, Travis Guillory, Molly Snodgrass, and William Swinney, Encouragement Award; Samantha Pape, Most Promising Sophomore.

"We are so proud of Emilio 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."

"The feeling I got from winning was just incredible," remarks Emilio Vasquez. "It was a humbling experience to receive such support and validation for the art I have been refining for a while now. Competing in an event like the Schmidt Vocal Competition not only opens doors and grants awards, it allows one to express their artistry and to have an additional learning outlet to further refine their craft."

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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 Emilio Vasquez

Baritone Emilio Vasquez enjoys a wide variety of vocal performance opportunities and aspires to build a career in classical singing and opera. Since he was selected by audition to participate in the Houston Grand Opera Bauer Family High School Voice Studio young artist program, he has gained many performance and master class opportunities. Emilio has participated in several master classes, including those of Lawrence Brownlee, Ana María Martínez, Michael Heaston, and Pierre Vallet. In 2018, Emilio performed at Brevard Music Center in selected opera scenes. Most recently, Emilio has attended the Schmidt Vocal Institute at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

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