



INSPIRING FUTURE
GENERATIONS OF SINGERS

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Caitlin Chisham Wins Colorado Schmidt Vocal Competition

The University of Colorado Boulder hosts prestigious singing competition that presents thousands of dollars in awards each year

(Boulder, CO) December 10, 2019 – On December 7, 2019, the University of Colorado Boulder 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 Caitlin Chisham, from Derby, KS, who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of "The Singer" by Michael Head.

Additional winners were: Amelia Carson, Second Place; Kaylee Smith, Third Place; Sam Gurulé, Katelyn Hurd, Jessie Kiester, and Lauren Welker, finalist; Richmund Cowan, Erin Davis, and Katelyn Hurd, Encouragement Award; Sam Gurulé, Broadway Bound Award; Amelia Carson, Most Promising Sophomore.

"We are so proud of Caitlin and the many other talented singers who participated in this year's Schmidt Vocal Competition," said Linda McAlister, Executive Director of 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."

"Honestly, it felt so surreal. I knew I was going to do better than my last Schmidt Vocal Competition because of my training this past summer," remarks Caitlin Chisham. "Competing is so important, not only because of the physical act of singing, but the mental part as well. I have learned how to prepare myself and control my nerves, which improves my performance and even have a little fun!"

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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 of Schmidt Vocal Arts and 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 Caitlin Chisham

Caitlin Chisham has placed first in several regional and national competitions. She is a Koch Cultural Trust grant recipient. Caitlin has attended summer vocal intensive programs including the Brevard Vocal Institute and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. She has also sung with several local, regional, and national honor choirs. Caitlin's accomplishments have earned her opportunities for personal instruction from internationally known opera singers, including Marilyn Horne and Alan Held. Caitlin is a Junior at Derby High School in Kansas and is coached by Lorne Richstone at the University of Oklahoma and studies private voice with Dr. Cristina Castaldi of Wichita State University.

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