



INSPIRING FUTURE
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Kacie Galarce Wins Georgia Schmidt Vocal Competition

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

(Atlanta, GA) March 7, 2020 – On March 7, 2020, Georgia State 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 Kacie Galarce, from Miami, FL, who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of "Goodnight Moon" by Eric Whitacre.

Additional winners were: Wooldjina Present, Second Place; Julie Anne Ernst, Third Place; Zanaiah Billups, Jonas Iskander, Gayle Rhodes, Anazha Santiago, Emily Scharf, finalists; Arin Francis, Max Moore, Encouragement Awards; Michelle Skylar, Most Promising Sophomore; LinDell McFadden, Broadway Bound Award.

"We are so proud of Kacie Galarce 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."

"Standing on the stage while awards are being called is always the most nerve-racking part," remarks Kacie Galarce. "I was pleased with my performance and, at that point, it didn't matter what the outcome would be. I remember doing this competition two years ago and, even though I did not qualify as a finalist then, I didn't give up. I kept working with my amazing voice teacher, Jennifer Tipton, and now to have been awarded first place felt so surreal. Even though my mom could not be there with me, I know she was supporting me from Florida and, for that, I am eternally grateful."

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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 Competition, 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 Kacie Galarce

Kacie Galarce is currently a student of Dr. Jennifer Tipton at New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida. She is the blog editor for the National Opera Teens Advisory Committee and presented about her council and matters on bringing opera to a new generation at the Opera America Conference in San Francisco. Kacie has participated in the Schmidt Vocal Competition three times and, in 2019, she became a finalist. She is extremely proud of her First Place win this year. In 2019, she participated in the Schmidt Vocal Institute. Kacie has had many solo/choral performance opportunities, including being chosen to sing a solo in the Washington National Cathedral her sophomore year and performing with Honor Choir at the American Choral Directors Association. In addition to classical voice, Kacie has been a part of many music theater productions with Miami Children's Theater and Mini Mirage Theater. Next year, Kacie will start her college career as a vocal performance major and she hopes to have a career as a crossover artist of classical and musical theater repertoire. Off the stage, Kacie hopes to make opera more accessible to younger audiences.

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