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Anna Klausli Wins North Carolina Schmidt Vocal Competition

Modified “virtual” competition model gives high school singers the opportunity to still win cash awards and potential scholarships

(Winston- Salem, NC) May 2, 2020 – On May 2, 2020 the Schmidt Vocal Competition, in conjunction with its North Carolina cohort host, The University of North Carolina School of the Arts announced winners of its modified virtual singing competition for sophomore, junior, and senior high school singers. This year’s first prize winner was Anna Klausli, from Columbia, SC who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of "Tu lo sai" by Giuseppe Torelli.

Additional winners were: Marisa Bringewatt, Second Place; Quinn Albinus, Third Place; Christian Dukes, Jana Harmon, Sophia Leeman, Julia Leeman, Holly Romanelli, Finalist; Hannah Kang, Bella Lambert, Edward Leger, Ava Stevenson Encouragement Award; Jana Harmon, Most Promising Sophomore.

Due to the closing of college and university campuses and the stay-at-home orders in place across the country, Schmidt Vocal Arts quickly pivoted in March to create a modified “virtual submission” model for its Spring 2020 Schmidt Vocal Competitions. Several signature elements traditionally associated with the Schmidt Vocal Competition were not possible in the virtual model – such as in-person, on-stage live performances, master classes led by renown members of the Schmidt Vocal Artist Network between the two rounds of competition, and connecting with fellow competitors throughout the day. However, competitors in the virtual cohort were able to showcase their talent as well as come together to hear from judges and celebrate the winners in a Facebook LIVE awards ceremony.

“We are so proud of Anna Klausli and the many other talented singers who participated in this year’s virtual Schmidt Vocal Competition,” said Linda McAlister, Executive Director of Schmidt Vocal Arts. “Many of our competitors work hard all year to compete in this prestigious competition. We wanted to ensure they still had the chance to compete, earn cash awards, and become eligible for scholarship opportunities. In times of uncertainty, experiences like this are more important than ever.”

“I was completely surprised, honored and delighted at winning the Schmidt Vocal Competition,” remarks Anna Klausli. “Most of all I was so thankful for the support of my

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wonderful family and teacher Ms. Calloway. Without them it would not have been possible. It was important for me to compete, first, because my teacher encouraged me to do so and second, because I was seeking a good competition experience where I could practice an audition process and receive feedback to help me grow as a singer. The Schmidt Vocal Competition gave me just that.”

Schmidt Vocal Competition plans to return to its live, in-person competition model on the campus of The University of North Carolina School of the Arts next Spring. For more information, visit www.schmidtvocalarts.org.

About Schmidt Vocal Competition

The Schmidt Vocal Competition has impacted the lives of thousands of young students over the past two decades, offering awards, scholarships, 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 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 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 Anna Klausli– Anna Klausli has always loved singing and dancing. She was first introduced to classical singing at the age of five through the Mädchenkantorei in Stuttgart, Germany. Anna rediscovered singing in eleventh grade through listening to the Bach oratorios. She now studies privately with Rachel Calloway and sings in the First Presbyterian Youth Chorus under Dr. Cole. She also loves ballet, baking, and spending time with family. Anna is a senior this year and is looking forward to studying music education and voice performance at the University of South Carolina. She dreams of being involved in Bach oratorios that still inspire her.

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