



INSPIRING FUTURE
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PRESS CONTACT:

Linda McAlister, Executive Director
Linda@schmidtvocalarts.org

Caroline Carter Wins Washington D.C Schmidt Vocal Competition

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

(Washington, D.C.) June 6, 2020 – On June 6, 2020 the Schmidt Vocal Competition announced winners of its modified virtual singing competition for sophomore, junior, and senior high school singers. This year’s first prize winner was Caroline Carter, from Dallas, TX who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of "Faites-lui mes aveux" by Charles Gounod.

Additional winners were: Alexandra Poliakoff, Second Place; Ashley Chen, Third Place; Danaelyn Baroja, Miriam Friedman, Jessica Kodsi, Erin Mullen, Abigail Poag, Preston Rogers, Bethany Villaruz, Finalist; Kate Lin, Broadway Bound Award; Kevin Corrigan, Alice Yoon, Encouragement Award; Jessica Kodsi, 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 Caroline Carter 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.”

A Schmidt Vocal Arts
6 East 5th Street, Suite 406
Covington, KY 41011

T (513) 783-2583
E info@schmidtvocalarts.org
W www.schmidtvocalarts.org





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“I was very excited to find out that I was a first-place winner,” remarks Caroline Carter. “The Schmidt Vocal Competition has connected me with resources to help me further my singing career and I am looking forward to being a member of their alumni network.”

Schmidt Vocal Competition plans to return to its live, in-person competition models 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 Caroline Carter

Caroline Carter is an 18-year-old singer from Dallas, Texas. Her story as a musician began when she was in fourth grade, and her parents enrolled her in voice lessons. It was a program that focused on popular music, and she found herself singing Adele and The Clash in bars around Dallas. She loved being on stage and performing, and she found that she could connect with the world through song. Her teacher introduced her to classical vocal techniques, and her passion for singing grew. She is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where she has intensified her classical training, focusing on art songs, arias, and opera performance. Next year she will attend Oberlin Conservatory for vocal performance.

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