

Arts Alive, July 8, 2010

RELEASE

CONTACT: Uel Wade
(518) 392-4697
uel@uelwade.org

The judges for the 2010 Uel Wade Music Scholarship were charged with dividing the available \$6,000 among the five teenage musicians competing for scholarship dollars, according to what they heard at the concert on May 23 at the Spencertown Academy. The guidelines allow the judges great leeway in their decisions. Theoretically they could award the whole fund to one musician, or divide it between the top two, or come up with an unprecedented configuration.

This year, in an uncharacteristic vote, the judges awarded some money to each of the finalists. Three thousand of it, however, went to first-prize winner, percussionist Brian Shank (from Valatie, NY); one thousand five-hundred went to second-prize winner, cellist Julian Müller (from Ghent, NY); and a five hundred dollar "encouragement" award went to each of the remaining competitors: Caitlin Smith of Castleton, NY, Caroline D'Ambro of Schaghticoke, NY, and Tyler Gasek of Great Barrington, MA.

The judges (all working professional musicians who have orchestra, chamber music, solo, and teaching résumés) were Stephen Walt, Richard Mickey, Eric Latini, and Steven Bodner. The money at their disposal is seeded each year with \$1,000 from Uel Wade and Marion Hunter, the Scholarship sponsors. The rest comes from individuals and businesses in the community and from the Spencertown Academy, which donates use of its hall and the box office proceeds.

Of cellist Julian Müller, the judges commented: "overall good pitch and full warm tone," "nice vibrato and a wide range of dynamics and phrasing," "impressive string-crossings," "quite compelling and interesting presentation."

Shank's win was unanimous. "Smashing technique, always in the service of expressiveness," "rhythmic command," "clear, polished, wonderful style," the judges said of his performances on both snare drum and marimba.

Winners and runners-up all received praise and suggestions for future musical work, which will be privately passed on to each competitor.

Awards may be applied to conservatories, colleges, music camps, and private music teachers. Shank, a high-school senior who has already been accepted at Juilliard, will apply his scholarship to that institution. Müller, a junior, will use his money for summer camp at Meadowmount School of Music in Westport, NY.

While the judges conferred, former prize-winners Margaret Flanigan (mezzo soprano) and Anton Rist (clarinetist) performed separately and together, accompanied by Wade.