**Press Release – TALENTED WINNERS IN “SPOTLIGHT” COMPETITION**

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**MATINEE—YOUNGER STUDENTS**

**CATEGORY 1 --**

**1st - Amber Luu - piano**

**2nd - Olivia Cartagena - piano**

**3rd - Salvador Hernandez - classical guitar**

**4th - Fiona Blackburn - piano**

**CATEGORY 2 --**

**1st - Vincent Pham - piano**

**2nd - Alonzo Tigley - piano**

**3rd - Sofia Acosta - musical theater**

**4th - Angelina Anderson - musical theater**

**CATEGORY 3 -**

**1st - Samuel Wu - piano**

**2nd - Dylan Pham - piano**

**3rd - Emory Rudolph - contemporary dance**

**4th - Derek Sung - piano**

**GROUPS -**

**1st - Star Company - contemporary dance**

**2nd - Welcome to the Rock - musical theater**

**3rd - Harmonix Quartet - barbershop quartet**

**EVENING – OLDER STUDENTS**

**CATEGORY 1 -**

**1st - Brooke Felty - lyrical dance**

**2nd - Dino Antoniou - rock guitar**

**3rd - Ciara Colon - vocal**

**4th - Madison Fouche - contemporary dance**

**CATEGORY 2 -**

**1st - Faith Phaller - ballet dance**

**2nd - Jayden Parsons - contemporary dance**

**3rd - Samantha Colon - musical theater**

**CATEGORY 3 -**

**1st - Agnes Hernandez - piano**

**2nd - Cassidy Heister - lyrical dance**

**3rd - Katie Knight - tap dance**

**CATEGORY 7 -**

**1st - Julianna Mazza - lyrical dance**

**2nd - Gracie Scaglione - contemporary dance**

**3rd - Mason Kistler - piano**

**4th - Roman Ricardo - musical theater**

**5th - Kathy Liu - piano and violin**

**6th - Nora Urbuteit - jazz dance**

**PASCO HERITAGE $1,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

**Julianna Mazza - lyrical dance**

Above are the winners named at the 37th annual “Spotlight on Talent” Performing Arts Competition, held last Saturday (March 7) at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High. This contest has become so popular that we now have 2 final shows. The Matinee (younger students and all groups) was at 12 noon, and the Evening Show (older students) was at 7:00 p.m. Each of these outstanding talented young people very much deserves recognition in our area newspapers! A special feature article we definitely feel is called for. Please go to our web site at [www.heritagearts.org](http://www.heritagearts.org), to pull up some excellent digital photos, all labeled and ready to go.

Here are some additional facts we’d like you to use. Over 130 contestants were given the opportunity to perform onstage at this first rate facility in front of 2 enthusiastic crowds and 2 panels of professional judges. The non-profit Heritage Arts Center Assoc. is the organization that produces this show each year. A 15 member Board of Directors worked for 3 months, and the final production team included 12 additional community friends who gave of their time. Exec. Producer was Barbara Friedman, and Asst. Producers were Faith Pridmore, Michael Roberts, and Laurel Weightman. 29 different corporate/community sponsors generously donated toward the over $4,000 cash prizes, trophies and ribbons that were distributed, and to cover the over $16,000 cost of the shows. Our Masters of Ceremonies were Kurt Browning, Superintendant of Pasco County Schools, and Dr. Mike Rom, popular educator and author.

These were spectacular shows, and the crowds of hundreds had a great time cheering these amazing talents. A wonderful variety of many types of talent was presented, including vocal, piano, dance, musical theater, rock guitar, classical guitar, violin and our 1st barbershop quartet - of young ladies. One exciting announcement was the climax of the evening show, the naming of our 8th Pasco Heritage Scholarship recipient! The $1,000 award went to dancer Julianna Mazza, a Pasco High senior who has studied dance at Blackwood Studios since the age of 4, and a winning contestant in "Spotlight on Talent" for 10 years. Julianna was the Pasco County graduating senior with the highest solo scores from the finals judges as well as the audition judges.

It was a very full day, showcasing the amazing talents of 120 young people. But hard work, discipline, great instruction and sacrificial parenting paid off with a demonstration of the wonderful and inspiring gifts that the performing and visual arts can be to our lives. The audiences of family and community friends were completely entertained and charmed.

Please put in as much as you can, and please call me if you need any other information.