

SPOTLIGHT ON TALENT 2024 WINNERS AND SCHOLARSHIP

MATINEE SHOW

CATEGORY 1

- 1ST – Amber Luu – Piano
- 2nd – Rhys Ricardo - Vocal
- 3rd – Adelynn Erickson – Jazz Dance
- 4th – Addie Pereira - Piano

CATEGORY 2

- 1ST – Savanna Nelson – Ballet Dance
- 2nd – Naomi Reed - Piano
- 3rd – Kaiya Bistany-Charles - Vocal
- 4th – Adina Polley - Vocal
- 5th – Annabelle DePolis – Vocal
- 6th – Chloe Adams – Lyrical/Ballet Dance

CATEGORY 3

- 1st – Tenley Ryman – Contemporary Dance
- 2nd – Fiona Lin Blackburn - Piano
- 3rd – Caitlyn Siers – Contemporary Ballet
- 4th – Nikki Lang – Piano
- 5th – Gabriella Reto - Vocal

YOUNGER GROUPS

- 1st - Libertango Trio – Violins and Piano

EVENING SHOW

CATEGORY 1

- 1ST – Makenna Henry - Dance
- 2nd – Paul McGill - Piano
- 3rd – Maelee Scaglione – Contemporary Dance

- 4th – Autumn Hawkins - Dance
- 5th – Isabel Geskey – Ballet Dance
- 6th – Elyana Coriano - Vocal

CATEGORY 2

- 1ST – Abigail Wallace – Contemporary Dance
- 2nd – Katie Young - Vocal
- 3rd – Conway Theel - Piano
- 4th – Anna Hutchinson – Jazz Dance
- 5th – Huy Duong - Piano

CATEGORY 3

- 1ST – Kasey Lang - Piano
- 2nd – Ylenia Giannini – Ballet Dance
- 3rd – Jasmine Crew – Contemporary Dance
- 4th – Larkin Mainwaring – Vocal
- 5th – Ashlyn Masson - Vocal

OLDER GROUPS

- 1ST – Star Company – Acrobatic Dance
- 2nd – AIM Stars I – Musical Theater
- 3rd – AIM Stars B – Acting Comedy

PASCO HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP:

- Kasey Land - Piano

Above are the winners named at the 41th annual “Spotlight on Talent” Performing Arts Competition, held recently (March 16) at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High. The Matinee showcased younger students and groups, and the Evening Show, older students and groups. 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 very soon, go to our website at 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 120 talented young people from ages 6 to 18 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 15 additional community friends who gave of their time. Exec. Producer was Barbara Friedman, and Asst. Producers were Laretta Brown, Michelle Twitmyer and Laurel Weightman. 30 different corporate/community sponsors generously donated toward the over \$4,000 cash prizes, trophies and ribbons that were distributed, concluding with the \$1,000 scholarship to pianist Kasey Lang, the Pasco senior with the highest judges scores. Our Masters of Ceremonies was Ben Alexander, whose banter tried to calm the nerves of the nervous parents. The shows were dedicated to honor the memory of two lovely ladies who were on the Board of Directors of Heritage Arts, and who passed away this year – Linda LaFayette and Vickie West.

This competition was the vision of a handful of people in 1983, led by Sally Blackwood, of a non-profit, volunteer group in order to promote performing and visual arts opportunities in this once rural and agricultural area. Spotlight on Talent has grown from 30 acts held at the county fair, to an \$18,000 event with two entertaining shows and professional judges, held at Wesley Chapel’s stage-of-the-art Center for the Arts.

It was a very full day, showcasing the amazing talents of 120 young people. 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 – fulfilling the vision that Sally Blackwood had in 1983.

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