

Press Release – 43rd Spotlight on Talent Celebrates Winners!
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SPOTLIGHT TALENT 2026
WINNERS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

MATINEE SHOW

CATEGORY 1

- 1ST – Addie Pereira - Piano**
- 2nd – Ruby Ricardo – Musical Theater**
- 3rd – Chloe Xu - Piano**
- 4th – Adelynn Erickson – Contemporary Dance**

5th – Lyla Chen – Piano

6th – Audrey Sachs – Dance

7th – Orrin Schaeffer - Vocal

CATEGORY 2

1ST – Keeley Sutton - Dance

2nd – Rhys Ricardo – Musical Theater

3rd – Kaylynne Garofolo - vocal

4th – Addison Ashmore – Lyrical Dance

CATEGORY 3

1st – Adina Polley – Musical Theater

2nd – Chloe Adams – Jazz Dance

3rd – Vidhun Sivakumar - Piano

4th – Lennon Schaeffer - Vocal

YOUNGER GROUPS

1st – Jolee and Keeley - Dance

2nd – AIM Melodic Stars - Vocal

EVENING SHOW

CATEGORY 1

1ST – Jacob Burkett - Piano

2nd – Katt Baudoin - Vocal

3rd – Kennedy Kring – Pointe Dance

4th – Alicia Pierazzo - Piano

CATEGORY 2

1ST – Rio Ricardo – Musical Theater

2nd – Madison Fang - Piano

3rd - Aarna Bar - Piano

CATEGORY 3

1ST – Makenna Henry – Contemporary Dance

2nd – Anna Hutchinson – Contemporary Dance

3rd –Maelee Scaglione – Contemporary Dance

4th – Robert Martinez-Casiano - Piano

4th – Bomin Kwon – Piano

6th – Naomi Lopez – Lyrical Dance

OLDER GROUPS

1ST – AIM Harmonic Stars - vocal

2nd – Star Company – Jazz Dance

PASCO HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Makenna Henry – Contemporary Dance

Maelee Scaglione – Contemporary Dance

Above are the winners named at the 43rd annual "Spotlight on Talent" Performing Arts Competition, held recently (March 28) at the Pasco Hernando State College IPAC Theater. 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 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 7 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 9 additional community friends who gave of their time. Exec. Producer was Barbara Friedman, and Asst. Producers were Laretta Brown, Michelle Twitmyer and Laurel Weightman. 35 different corporate/community sponsors generously donated toward the over \$6,000 cash prizes, trophies and ribbons that were distributed. Our Masters of Ceremonies were County Commissioner Seth Weightman and Larry Quinn.

HACA was excited that, because they received a generous grant renewal from Suncoast Credit Union, they were able to again award two \$1,000 Pasco Heritage Scholarships to the graduating seniors from Pasco with the highest judges scores, instead of the usual one. The two talented seniors awarded this year were dancers Makenna Henry and Maelee Scaglione. Then in May they will give another two \$1,000 scholarships to talented visual artists with their Nereim Fine Arts Awards.

This competition was the vision of a handful of people in 1983, led by the late 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 \$23,000 event with two entertaining shows and professional judges.

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.