



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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METROARTS INC. ANNOUNCES 22ND YOUNG ARTISTS DEBUT! VAN BUREN COMPETITION & CONCERTO CONCERT WINNERS

Portland, Oregon, January 19, 2016 – MetroArts Inc. Executive Artistic Director and Conductor, Maestro Niel DePonte, announced the *22nd Young Artists Debut! Van Buren Competition & Concerto Concert* winners who will make their concert debut on **Friday, April 1st, at 7:30 PM at Lincoln Hall at Portland State University.**

The nine soloists, ages 9-21, were selected from 34 semi-finalists at auditions held on January 9th at Lewis & Clark College. Winners will perform with DePonte and an orchestra drawn from the ranks of the Oregon Symphony and Oregon Ballet Theatre orchestras. The concert will be broadcast live on All Classical Portland 89.9 FM. and streamed worldwide.

“This is a very special class chosen not only for their current level of artistry but also because our younger soloists show a musical gift that offers the promise of an amazing future in music for them,” said DePonte, who also serves as the Music Director and Conductor for Oregon Ballet Theater. DePonte is also a Grammy Award nominated soloist.

The *22nd Young Artists Debut! Van Buren Competition & Concerto Concert* winning artists, in alphabetical order, are:

Carlyle Cooney, age 15, Mezzo Soprano, Portland, student of Lorraine Nubar, two-time *Young Artists Debut! Competition & Concerto Concert* winner. Song selection to be determined.

Saori Erickson, age 21, Soprano, Portland, Junior at Portland State University, student of Pamela South. Song selection to be determined.

Hanami Froom, age 9, violin, Portland, 4th grader at Oregon Virtual Academy, student of Carol Sindell. Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, Movement 3.

Aveek Ganguly, age 16, piano, Portland, Sophomore at Westview High School, student of Mark Westcott, two-time *Young Artists Debut! Competition & Concerto Concert* winner. St Saens 2nd Piano Concerto, 3rd movement.

Symphonie Koss, age 14, violin, Vancouver, WA, Freshman at Columbia River High School, student of Kathryn Gray. Barber Violin Concerto, Movement 1.

Richard Lu, age 17, cello, Camas, WA, Senior at Skyview High School, student of Marilyn de Oliveira. Elgar Cello Concerto, Movement 4

Aaron Petit, age 18, piano, Beaverton, student of Mark Westcott. Chopin Piano Concerto No.1 E min, Movement 1.

Christine Wey, age 18, piano, Vancouver, WA, Senior at Union High School, student of Elizabeth Stern. Beethoven 3rd Piano Concerto, Movement

Samuel Zacharia, age 16, viola, Portland, homeschooled Junior, student of Brian Quincy. Stamitz Viola Concerto in D Major.

Each young artist will perform their concerto at the April 1st concert, and will participate in three months of individualized coaching sessions with DePonte. At these sessions, winners not only discuss the interpretation of their concertos, but also how to solo with an orchestra, ways to approach repertoire, and what it takes to be a professional musician.

“These are incredibly talented young people. My goal is to challenge them to move towards even higher levels of performance and interpretive depth over three months,” said DePonte. “Working with these kids is the most rewarding work I do every year.”

Some noteworthy former *Young Artists Debut! Competition & Concerto Concert* winners include former Miss America and vocalist Katie Harman, Principal Bassoon of the Chicago Symphony Keith Bunke, 2009, pianist and winner of Germany’s prestigious ARD Competition Ben Kim, 2001, and violinist, and currently concertmaster at La Scala Opera House in Milan, Italy, Laura Marzadori, 2005.

For tickets to attend the sure to be sold-out 22nd *Young Artists Debut! Van Buren Concerto Concert* on April 1st, or additional information about MetroArts Inc., please visit www.metroartsinc.org.

MetroArts Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Since 1993, MetroArts Inc.’s mission has been to teach creative and critical thinking processes through innovative arts education programs and curricula.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Shannon Wilkey, Development & Marketing Director, at shannon@metroartsinc.org.