

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Townsend Opera Players Announces Winners of the 2009 Kristina Townsend Memorial Vocal Competition

Townsend Opera Players is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Kristina Townsend Memorial Vocal Competition.

In the 20-22 year old category, Amy Oraftik, age 22 of Piedmont, CA, took first prize. She currently studies with Jane Bunnell. In the 18-19 year old category, Vanessa Rosas, age 19 of Turlock, CA, took first prize. She currently studies with Constance Weichert. In the 15-17 year old category, Mary Whitaker, age 16 of Monterey, CA, took first prize. She currently studies with Norma Mayer.

The judges for the 2009 Kristina Townsend Memorial Vocal Competition were Dr. Joseph Wiggett, Artistic Director of Townsend Opera Players and Professor of Voice and Opera Workshop at CSU Stanislaus; Peter Jaffe, Music Director of Stockton Symphony and Artistic Director of Stockton Opera; Cherrie Llewellyn, Professor of Music at Modesto Junior College; and Dawn Peterson, private vocal instructor.

Nearly thirty singers participated in the competition this year. The Kristina Townsend Memorial Vocal Competition is held annually in memory of Kristina Townsend, daughter of company founders Buck and Erika Townsend, who passed away of leukemia days short of her thirteenth birthday.

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