

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Modesto, California – March 9, 2009**

**Townsend Opera Players Announces Auditions for the Kristina Townsend Memorial Vocal Competition**

Townsend Opera Players announces May 2, 2009, from 10:00-4:00, as the audition date for the Kristina Townsend Memorial Vocal Competition. There are three age categories for the competition, with a cash prize for the winner of each category; \$500 for the 20-22 year old category, \$400 for the 18-19 year old category, and \$300 for the 15-17 year old category. Each winner will be required to sing at the Townsend Opera Players Top Tier Dinner on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Participants must be prepared to sing three selections in at least two different languages that demonstrate contrasting styles. An accompanist will be provided, or participants can bring their own accompanist if they prefer. There is a \$10 entry fee for the audition. Auditions will be scheduled as available. Special time requests will be considered, but are not guaranteed.

Applications for entry are available at the Townsend Opera Players Business Office (605 H Street, Modesto), the CSU Stanislaus Department of Music (1 University City, Turlock), Gottschalk's Music (129 Burney, Modesto), and the Modesto Junior College Department of Music (435 College Avenue, Modesto).

The annual vocal competition honors the memory of Kristina Townsend, daughter of founder Erik Buck Townsend, who passed away of leukemia days before her thirteenth birthday.

Contact:  
Barbara Wesley  
209.523.6426  
barbara@townsendoperaplayers.com  
P.O. Box 4519  
Modesto, CA 95352

###