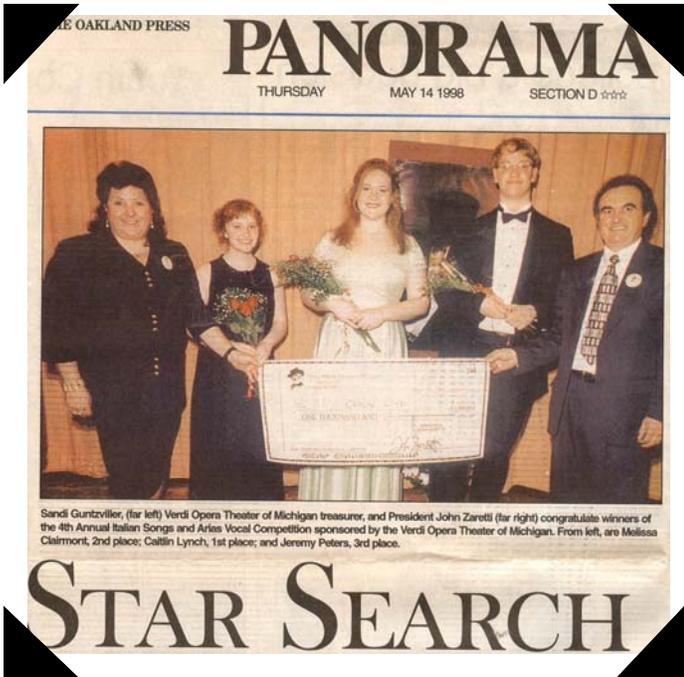


Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students

SOUVENIR album



NATALIE CONTE IS A WINNER!

Natalie Conte, a junior, is the \$1000 first prize winner of the fifth annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students sponsored by the Verdi opera Theatre of Michigan and the Italian American Cultural Society. Natalie submitted an audiotape of herself singing two Italian songs. Ten finalists were selected to compete in a live concert at the Italian Cultural Center in Warren. Natalie, a budding soprano, sang Rossini's dramatic melody "La Separazione" and W. A. Mozart's aria "Ah! Fuggi, il traditor" from "Don Giovanni". We send our congratulations to Natalie!

Encourage all high school music students to join in the experience!

Okemos grad sings right tune

By KRISTIN ALLEN
Staff Writer

A recent Okemos High School graduate sang his way to the \$1,000 grand prize during the second annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition in Warren.

The May 19 competition, sponsored by the Verdi Opera Theater and the Italian American Cultural Society, gave Scott MacLeod a chance to do what he does best: entertain.

MacLeod entered the contest in March by submitting a recording of two works: Mozart's aria "Non Piu Andrai" and the Italian classical piece "Un 'Ombra di Pace," by Bononcini.

He was subsequently chosen as one of ten finalists to sing the songs during a live concert competition at Warren's Italian American Cultural and Community Center.

"I think the Mozart piece was the one that won it for me," said MacLeod of his live performance. "This was the first song I sang for the competition and it's pretty demanding. It's a real opera piece designed for a mature singer."

MacLeod, a baritone, admits being a little leery of his competition before taking the stage.

"When we were warming up, I heard this amazing soprano and it kind of turned me off from the thought that I might actually win," he said.

The grand prize award tops of a string of first-place honors MacLeod received throughout his senior year.

He placed first in Lansing Community College's David F. Machtel voice competition and captured the high school men's division championship at Western Michigan University's National Association of Teachers Singing Competition.

Next on the agenda for MacLeod is a Lansing-area duet competition, where the winner will walk away with \$10,000.

Right now, however, MacLeod is content with the \$1,000 he received from the Warren competition, though he admits the money has already been committed to his college fund.



Courtesy Photo
From Left: Reno Garagiola, President of Italian American Cultural Society; Dino Valle, Artistic Director, Verdi Opera; Andrew Bielski, Okemos High School, 3rd place; Scott MacLeod, Okemos High School 1st place; Jennifer Raggelt, Traverse City, 2nd place; John Zaretti, president, Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan.

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Friday, May 26 - June 8, 2000 The Italian Tribune

Winners of Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition

John Zaretti and Hon. Anthony Sanfemio congratulate the winners of the Sixth Annual Italian Songs and Arias vocal competition. (Left to right) John Zaretti, president of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, Rebecca Ross (third prize winner); Nathaniel Voelker (second prize winner) Melissa Swain (first place winner) and Hon. Anthony Sanfemio, president of the Italian American Cultural Society.

Friday, May 26 - June 8, 2006 The Italian Tribune

Verdi Opera Awards Three

T Tyler Hodges, a student from Interlochen Arts Academy, is the \$1,000 First Prize winner of the twelfth annual Italian Songs and Arts Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students.

This competition is sponsored by the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan in cooperation with the Italian American Club of Livonia Charitable Foundation and the Italian American Cultural Society in Clinton Township.

Forty-seven participants from schools throughout the state entered the competition by submitting recording of their singing two Italian classical songs or operas. Ten finalists were selected from the entries received. The ten students then competed in a live Concert of the Finalists recently held at

preparation and remarkable talent, which made for an engaging afternoon of song for the enthusiastic audience and a challenging task for the adjudicators.

The runner-up prize of \$300 was awarded to Hannah Goldshlack, of Okemos High School, and the third prize of \$200 went to Paige Lucas, of Haslett High School.

The remaining seven students, who were considered of equally high merit, received \$50 each. Those students were: Dolan Bloom, Meris Gadaletto, Eric Maier, and Sarah Voice, from Okemos High School; Kristen Farley of Traverse City central High School; Emma Grettenberger; from Interlochen Arts Academy; and Andrea Sexton, of Haslett High School.

Reno Garagiola, past President of the Italian

Livonia's Charitable Foundation.

Maria Harris, also a Director of the Charitable Foundation, presented the prizes to each of the finalists.

The distinguished judges for the competition were: Professor George Shirley, of Metropolitan Opera fame and Director of the Vocal Arts Division at the University of Michigan's School of Music; Jonathan Swift, Director of International Studies at Madonna University and co-host of the award-winning "Time Out for Opera" cable TV program; and Karen Vander Kloot DiChiera, Founder and Director of Community Programs of Michigan Opera Theatre.

After the concert all three judges met with each of the contestants to provide feedback on their performance and to encourage them

ANNUAL COMPETITION WINNERS

John Zaretti, a Canton resident, and Anthony Sanfemio, president of the Italian American Cultural Society, recently awarded Melissa Swain first place in the sixth annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition sponsored by the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan and the cultural society in Warren.

Zaretti is president of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan. More than 50 students from schools throughout the state entered the competition. Swain, a student at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, and 9 other finalists, including Laura Nanes of Wylie Grove High School, Beverly Hills, competed in a concert May 7 at the Italian American Cultural and Community Center in Warren. Judges were Elsie Inselman, a University of Windsor voice professor, and Roberto Mauro, Michigan Opera Theatre artistic administrator. Zaretti, master of ceremonies for the competition, also exhibited opera posters from his collection.

For information about the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan or next year's competition, call (734) 465-8895.



Award winner: John Zaretti (left) and Anthony Sanfemio congratulate Melissa Swain on winning the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan's annual vocal competition.

