

# Munson, Walker, string ensemble win showcase performance awards

This year's Young Artist Showcase at the Mount Vernon Music Hall was filled with talent and the most diverse group of performers in the events three year history. Around 85 attended the event Sunday afternoon, May 22.

The first place performance award and \$150 was earned by Benjamin Munson. The Classical guitarist, "wowed" the audience with his delivery of the challenging "Leyenda by Albeniz."

Sara Walker, clarinet player, took the second place performance award and a \$125 cash prize. She performed "Petite Piece" by composer L. Quet.

Third place an \$100 cash prize performance award went to the Sulphur Springs Strings. This was the first time for a performance award to go to an ensemble. The six member ensemble was made up of violinists, Chris Duran, Hannah Kirby, Samantha Stoltenberg, Silvia Gudino, Ariana Bravo; and cellist, Kade Eckhardt. They performed the "Gauntlet" by Doug Spata and "Night Shift" by Richard Meyes.

"The group set the mood by opening the concert playing very well indeed," commented Mark Miller, MVM Association president. "Such a welcome development for a

program that has seen its challenges over the years."

Two \$1,000 scholarships were made possible this year by donations from supporters. Winners for the scholarships for music studies went to percussionist Kasey Blezinger of Sulphur Springs and soprano singer Shelbi Herndon.

Miss Blezinger played the "Prelude No. 2 in A Major" by Ney Rosauvo on the marimba in the showcase performance. Miss Herndon sang "Il mio bel Foco" by composer Benedetto Marcello and "Do Not Go, My Love" by Composer Richard Hageman.

- Lillie Bush-Reves '11



PHOTO: Front row, Ben Munson, Sara Walker, Kasey Blezinger; Back row, members of the Sulphur Springs Strings: Kade Eckhardt, and in no particular order, Chris Duran, Hannah Kirby, Samantha Stoltenberg, Silvia Gudino, Ariana Bravo.