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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Music Center Names 110 Southern California High School Students as Semifinalists in *The Music Center's 31st Annual Spotlight Program*

– Nationally Recognized Arts Training and Scholarship Program Offers Budding Stars a Pathway to a Career in the Arts and More –

[See pages 3-5 for complete list by home city and school city]

LOS ANGELES (February 28, 2019) – The Music Center named 110 of Southern California's most talented high school students as semifinalists in [*The Music Center's 31st Annual Spotlight*](#) (*Spotlight*) program, a free nationally-acclaimed scholarship and arts training program for teens. *Spotlight* has transformed the lives of more than 47,000 students across Southern California since its launch in 1988. An important part of The Music Center's fundamental support for arts education, *Spotlight* is more than a competition. The program provides Southern California high school students the opportunity to acquire the skills they need to pursue their dreams in the performing arts. Students work on the development of their performance abilities in numerous genres, learn about careers in arts management and receive valuable college preparedness and workforce readiness skills.

The Music Center named semifinalists in each of seven categories, including acting, ballet, non-classical dance, classical voice, non-classical voice, classical instrumental and jazz instrumental.

According to Rachel Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center, *The Music Center's Spotlight* program exemplifies how the arts transform lives. "*Spotlight* guides students on a journey where they can explore their aptitudes and interests and a possible career in the performing arts" Moore said. "Every year, we look forward to discovering the vast talent of L.A.'s youth and, through the *Spotlight* program, help these young people hone their craft, enhance their skills and pursue their dreams. With *Spotlight*, we aim to empower the future of Los Angeles County, by offering the youth in our communities the tools for success whether they are in college, on stage or starting a career."

"*Spotlight* engages aspiring young artists and provides the tools and training that allow them to pursue a meaningful future," said Jeri Gaile, director of The Music Center's *Spotlight* program. "The program provides access to personalized training that, together with mentorship opportunities, builds self-confidence and prepares students for success no matter the path they chose to follow."

Approximately 1,600 participants auditioned for *Spotlight* this year, with students representing more than 253 schools, 195 cities and eight counties.

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Semifinalists receive a rare opportunity to attend a special master class in their genre with highly regarded artists, who share their expertise on performance technique, training and professional life. Experts provide students with highly valuable feedback on their performances, offering them a rich learning experience. Each semifinalist will audition again before a new panel of judges, who will then select the top two finalist performers in each category for a total of 14 Grand Prize Finalists. Judges will also name an Honorable Mention in each category. The Grand Prize Finalists will perform at The Music Center's Walt Disney Concert Hall in the *Spotlight* Grand Finale Performance on June 4, 2019.

The Music Center's Spotlight program awards more than \$100,000 in cash scholarships annually. Both Grand Prize Finalists in each category receive \$5,000 scholarships, with one Honorable Mention in each category receiving \$1,000. Semifinalists each receive \$300. The Music Center also celebrates five students in each category with the Merit Award, which acknowledges students who inspire the judges by their commitment and dedication to their art form. *Spotlight* Merit Award recipients each receive \$100.

Numerous *Spotlight* participants have gone on to successful professional careers. Twenty finalists are Presidential Scholars, and many more have joined or performed with professional companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Metropolitan Opera, LA Opera, Boston Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, among others. They include Misty Copeland, who made history in the dance world as the first African American principal dancer for American Ballet Theatre; Adam Lambert and Josh Groban, pop recording artists; Kris Bowers, Emmy Award-winning composer whose work includes *Green Book* and *Dear White People*; Lindsay Mendez, Tony Award winner for her role in the Broadway revival of *Carousel*; Erin Mackey, star of Broadway's *Wicked*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Anything Goes*, *Chaplin* and *Amazing Grace*; Yao Guang Zhai, associate principal clarinet of the Toronto Symphony; Gerald Clayton, Grammy Award winning jazz recording artist; and many others.

Fredric M. Roberts is founding chairman of The Music Center's Spotlight program. The late Walter Grauman was the creator.

For more information about The Music Center's Spotlight program, visit musiccenter.org/spotlight or join the conversation on facebook.com/spotlightawards.

See attached for a complete list of semifinalists.

About The Music Center

The Music Center convenes artists, communities and ideas with the goal of deepening the cultural lives of every resident in Los Angeles County. The non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: *The Music Center Ops*, which manages The Music Center's four theatres, an outdoor plaza and Grand Park on behalf of the County of Los Angeles; and *The Music Center Arts*, which curates a world-class dance series, *Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center*; produces and presents programming in other arts genres with a focus on engagement; and

presents nationally recognized arts education programs. The Music Center is also home to four renowned resident companies – Center Theatre Group, the LA Master Chorale, the LA Opera and the LA Philharmonic. With The Music Center On Location,™ the non-profit performing arts organization brings events and activities to locations outside of its Downtown Los Angeles campus. The Music Center also programs and manages Grand Park, a 12-acre adjacent greenspace, with year-round free programming. For more information, visit musiccenter.org Follow The Music Center on Facebook, and follow @MusicCenterLA on Instagram and Twitter.

The Music Center's 31st Annual Spotlight Program Semifinalists

Full Name	Program Name	Home City	School	Grade
Benjamin Conn	Jazz Instrumental	Agoura Hills	Agoura High School	11
Jackson Lewis	Acting	Agoura Hills	Agoura High School	12
Chaney Lieberman	Classical Voice	Aliso Viejo	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	12
Eilyssa Maclean	Classical Voice	Aliso Viejo	Aliso Niguel High School	11
Hailey Vivers	Ballet	Aliso Viejo	I am Home Schooled	10
Patill Daghlian	Classical Instrumental	Altadena	I am Home Schooled	11
Shengyu Meng	Classical Instrumental	Arcadia	I am Home Schooled	9
Julio Martinez	Classical Voice & Non Classical Voice	Beaumont	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	12
Brooklyn Schmidt	Jazz Instrumental	Burbank	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	10
Cheyenne Arroyo	Non-Classical Voice	Burbank	John Burroughs High School	12
Glory Curda	Non-Classical Voice	Burbank	I am Home Schooled	10
Sage McNeely	Non-Classical Voice	Burbank	John Burroughs High School	12
Tristan Paradee	Classical Instrumental	Burbank	Excellence in Education Academy	12
Gabriela Beltran	Classical Instrumental	Carlsbad	La Costa Canyon High School	11
Bene't Benton	Acting	Carson	Ramon C. Cortines High School	12
Lily Turner	Ballet	Costa Mesa	Laurel Springs School	10
Blanca Pallini	Acting	Covina	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	11
Petra Johnson	Ballet & Non-Classical Dance	Culver City	I am Home Schooled	9
Erica Riray	Non-Classical Voice	Cypress	Cypress High School	12
Alyssa Carol	Acting	Dana Point	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	12
Demmi Ross	Classical Voice	Dana Point	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	11
Megan Prout	Non-Classical Dance	Diamond Bar	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	11
Juan Carballo	Jazz Instrumental	Downey	Downey High School	11
Abby Lange	Classical Voice	Fullerton	Fullerton Union High School	12
Isley Duarte	Acting	Fullerton	Fullerton Union High School	12
Anoush Pogossian	Classical Instrumental	Glendale	Verdugo Academy	11
Carly Godoy	Acting	Hacienda Heights	California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley	12
Daisy Tye	Non-Classical Voice	Huntington Beach	Huntington Beach High School	11
Rosiana Falzon	Classical Voice	Huntington Beach	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	12
Andrea Hernández	Ballet	Idyllwild	Idyllwild Arts Academy	11
William Ju	Classical Instrumental	Idyllwild	Idyllwild Arts Academy	9
Geronimo Angel	Non-Classical Voice	Idyllwild	Idyllwild Arts Academy	12
Mark Beebe	Jazz Instrumental	Idyllwild	Idyllwild Arts Academy	12

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Albert Gang	Classical Instrumental	Irvine	Sage Hill School	11
Emmy Cheung	Non-Classical Dance	Irvine	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	9
Maya Coyne	Non-Classical Dance	Irvine	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	10
Michael Groner	Classical Instrumental	Irvine	Arnold O. Beckman High School	11
Grace Bernard	Classical Voice	La Verne	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	12
Erin Blair	Ballet	Laguna Niguel	Capistrano Connections Academy	12
Jacob Alvarado	Ballet	Laguna Niguel	I am Home Schooled	9
Leslie Parada	Ballet	Lancaster	I am Home Schooled	10
Stephen Kessler	Ballet	Long Beach	I am Home Schooled	11
Louie Gallagher	Acting	Los Alamitos	Los Alamitos High School	11
Adina Aaron	Acting & Non-Classical Voice	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	12
Alex Lui	Jazz Instrumental	Los Angeles	Venice High School	11
Alexander Fried	Classical Instrumental	Los Angeles	I am Home Schooled	10
Angie Villela	Classical Voice	Los Angeles	California Virtual Academy	12
August Bagg	Acting	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	12
Ava Maybee Cardoso-Smith	Non-Classical Voice	Los Angeles	Brentwood High School	12
Daniel Velez	Acting	Los Angeles	Ramon C. Cortines High School	12
Dario Bizio	Jazz Instrumental	Los Angeles	Hamilton High School	12
Darrion Sellman	Ballet	Los Angeles	Opportunities for Learning - Reseda	9
Ethan Avery	Jazz Instrumental	Los Angeles	I am Home Schooled	11
Evan Klein	Acting	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	10
Fletcher Jones	Acting	Los Angeles	Ramon C. Cortines High School	11
Gerardo Navarro	Acting & Non-Classical Voice	Los Angeles	Ramon C. Cortines High School	12
Hannah Nordberg	Non-Classical Voice	Los Angeles	Campbell Hall	9
Joann Gilliam	Non-Classical Voice	Los Angeles	Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences	12
Jordan DeTiege	Jazz Instrumental	Los Angeles	Granada Hills Charter High School	12
Laila Stewart	Acting	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	11
Leo Major	Jazz Instrumental	Los Angeles	Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences	11
Lucas Wurman	Non-Classical Voice	Los Angeles	Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences	11
Margaret Mothersbaugh	Ballet	Los Angeles	I am Home Schooled	9
Max Hammond	Classical Instrumental	Los Angeles	Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences	12
Mylah Eaton	Acting	Los Angeles	Champs Charter High School of the Arts	12
Sophia Macy	Acting	Los Angeles	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	12
Yejin Ahn	Classical Instrumental	Los Angeles	Colburn Music Academy	12
Jordan Demary	Non-Classical Dance	Menifee	Murrieta Valley High School	10
Madison Tanguay	Non-Classical Dance	Mission Viejo	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	12
Thomas Fekete	Non-Classical Dance	Murrieta	Murrieta Mesa High School	11
Tiger Diep	Jazz Instrumental	Murrieta	San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts	12
Georgia Harris	Non-Classical Dance	Orange	Lutheran High School of Orange County	12
Kai Burns	Jazz Instrumental	Pasadena	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	10
William Brownstein	Jazz Instrumental	Pasadena	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	12
Taylor Tran	Ballet & Non-Classical Dance	Placentia	Yorba Linda High School	11

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Kayla Murray	Non-Classical Dance	Rancho Cucamonga	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	12
Rena Maduro	Classical Voice	Riverside	North (John W.) High School	11
Amelia Aguilar	Classical Voice	Rosemead	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	10
Arthur Erlanson	Ballet & Non-Classical Dance	San Clemente	I am Home Schooled	11
Jessalyn Ward	Ballet & Non-Classical Dance	San Clemente	California Preparatory Academy	12
Cathy Chen	Classical Voice	San Gabriel	Temple City High School	12
Allison Ye	Non-Classical Voice	San Marino	San Marino High School	12
Skylar Lehr-Bryant	Classical Voice	San Marino	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - LACHSA	11
Bella Do	Ballet	Santa Ana	Seegerstrom High School	9
Lilah Horton	Non-Classical Dance	Santa Ana	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	10
Zoe Martinez	Classical Voice	Santa Ana	Mater Dei High School	9
Jaden Lewis	Non-Classical Voice	Santa Clarita	Valencia High School	12
Dilay Akcora	Classical Voice	Santa Monica	Santa Monica High School	12
Zackary Sommer	Non-Classical Dance	Solana Beach	Canyon Crest Academy	11
Andy Park	Classical Instrumental	South Pasadena	Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences	11
Claire Park	Classical Instrumental	South Pasadena	Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences	12
Maggie Liu	Classical Voice	Temecula	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	11
Dalton Hayse	Jazz Instrumental	Thousand Oaks	Hamilton High School	12
Sam Herbert	Non-Classical Voice	Thousand Oaks	Newbury Park High School	12
David Lee	Jazz Instrumental	Torrance	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	10
Aaliyah Zolina	Non-Classical Dance	Tustin	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	12
Lydia Brown	Classical Voice	Upland	Claremont High School	12
Kevin Cho	Classical Instrumental	Valencia	West Ranch High School	10
Andrew Shi	Classical Instrumental	Walnut	Diamond Bar High School	9
Gianna Pedregon	Jazz Instrumental	Whittier	Orange County School of the Arts - OCSA	10
Mia Benitez	Ballet	Wildomar	Inspire Charter School	11
Courtney Muna-Greer	Non-Classical Dance	Winchester	Vista Murrieta High School	11
Chloe Kinzler	Ballet	Winnetka	Granada Hills Charter High School	9

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