



For Immediate Release

**NFAA ANNOUNCES youngARTS™ AWARDS AND
PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS IN THE ARTS NOMINEES
*John Brancy from Mullica Hill, NJ named Gold youngARTS Winner***

John Brancy, a baritone from Clearview Regional High School in Mullica Hill, NJ, has been named one of just six extraordinarily talented teen artists from across the country to receive a Gold youngARTS Award and a \$10,000 prize from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA).

As a result of NFAA's highly competitive youngARTS Week, which took place January 8-14 in Miami, six artists were selected to receive Gold Awards (\$10,000) and 26 to receive Silver Awards (\$5,000) in recognition of their exceptional artistic achievements. These prestigious honors, including additional awards ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, totaled more than \$420,000.

During youngARTS Week, 141 high school seniors, selected from thousands nationwide in nine disciplines, spent a life-changing week performing, collaborating, taking master classes and honing their already remarkable artistic abilities. The enthusiasm, inquisitiveness and singular talent of these vibrant young artists are captured in "Rehearsing a Dream," Kirk Simon and Karen Goodman's Oscar-nominated documentary about youngARTS Week and the youngARTS Award competition.

Selected youngARTS Week participants will perform for an invited audience of 1,200 in a one-time only production, "Breakthrough 2007," on April 24 in New York City. Created and directed by Neil Goldberg, the show will take place at the Ziegfeld Theater on West 53rd Street and will be followed by the presentation of the Gold and Silver youngARTS Awards, as well as by a gala celebration at the Museum of Modern Art.

In addition to the youngARTS Awards, the 141 youngARTS Week participants are the only students eligible for selection as United States Presidential Scholars in the Arts. Judges at youngARTS Week nominated 50 of these young artists, including Brancy, as

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potential Presidential Scholars in the Arts. Final selections take place later this spring. youngARTS is the exclusive partner of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, the U.S. Department of Education and the Presidential Scholars Program.

The 32 young artists to be honored on April 24 with Gold or Silver youngARTS Awards are: **DANCE:** Jim Nowakowski (Webster, NY); Killian Stephens (San Rafael, CA); Brittanie Brown (Oak Cliff, TX); **FILM & VIDEO:** Montana Casey (St. Louis Park, MN); Colin Levy (Lutherville, MD); Forrest Usry (Augusta, GA); **JAZZ:** Jeff Picker (Beaverton, OR); David Rosenthal (Longmeadow, MA); **MUSIC:** Jessica Anastasio (San Antonio, TX); Benjamin Beilman (Ann Arbor, MI); Vicki Powell (Madison, WI); Hannah Sun (Flushing, NY); **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Christopher Bowman (Ellicott City, MD); Jason Lee (Chicago, IL); Paige Mazurek (Reisterstown, MD); **THEATER:** Joaquina Kalukango (East Point, GA); Sara King (New Albany, IN); Milton Perez (Miami, FL); Matthew Richards (Rosedale, NY); **VISUAL ARTS:** Elizabeth Eicher (Bellaire, TX); Vera Fomenkov (Owings Mills, MD); Scott Giblin (Towson, MD); Cheryl Smith (Sykesville, MD); **VOICE:** John Brancy (Mullica Hill, NJ); Sheyna Gee (Alta Loma, CA); Margaret Glaspy (Red Bluff, CA); Julia Metzler (Glendale, CA); **WRITING:** Asher Frankfurt (Dallas, TX); Lily Herman (Catonsville, MD); Ian McKenzie (Lacey, WA); Michael O'Brien (Pittsburgh, PA); Maya Polan (New Haven, CT); Phoebe Rusch (Highland Park, IL).

NFAA and its youngARTS program were established 26 years ago by Carnival Cruise Lines founder Ted Arison and his wife Lin Arison to ensure the future of American art by assisting young talent in nine disciplines both financially and educationally through youngARTS Week. youngARTS has provided over \$84 million to more than 10,000 especially gifted teens from throughout the United States.

For a complete list of youngARTS Winners at all levels and nominees for the Presidential Scholars in the Arts Award, please visit www.NFAA.org.

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