

new jersey  
arts collective

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Dear Contest Winners:

Let me offer our congratulations once again for being selected as one of the Pictures 2009 Composition Contest Winners! Hopefully you've received your DVD packet from the Composer's Forum held at Rutgers University.

As I said in the letter that accompanied the DVD, we need you to submit a bio for the PICTURES 2009 Concert program. Make sure to include information about your school, your musical careers so far and your music teachers – the idea is to brag a bit, so don't feel like you have to be modest. I've included a bio below from a previous winner to give you an idea of length and content:

**Alex Weston** is a senior at Chatham High School in Chatham, New Jersey. He has been playing piano for fourteen years, and began to concentrate on jazz seven years ago. Since then, he has participated in his school jazz band, attended the Skidmore Jazz Institute in 2005, and has been accepted to the New Jersey Performing Art Center's Jazz for Teens Program for the past two years. In 2006, he was also chosen for the one jazz piano position at the New Jersey Governor School of the Arts. Alex performs with a band of his own that plays original songs and arrangements of jazz standards at local events and high school shows. Alex has composed music for longer than he can remember, but began to seriously arrange and compose recently. In 2006, he was a grand prize winner of the Pictures 2006 Composition Contest, sponsored by the New Jersey Arts Collective, and the solo piano piece he composed was performed by Anthony DeMare at the Montclair Art Museum and the Two Rivers Theater, both in New Jersey. In addition to arrangements for his band and his High School's jazz band, he has studied composition at the Hartwick Summer Music Festival and Institute, and recently began to take private composition lessons. This fall Alex will begin studying music composition at Carnegie Mellon University.

Also, please email us a list of your music teachers (public school/college and private lessons) and school administrators along with their contact information (mailing addresses or email addresses)? Please also include the name of your local newspaper (not the Star Ledger), like the *Suburbanite* for Tenafly or *Montclair Times* for Montclair.

Here are some details about the PICTURES 2009 Concert itself.

All winners will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the concert (1 for the winner and 1 for a parent or other guest). Additional tickets will need to be purchased at: [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/63667](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/63667) or by calling 1-800-838-3006 and ask for event 63667. There are ticket prizes for Adults (\$15) and Students/Children (\$10). Because the NJAC is a non-profit organization (501c3), you can also choose to become a PICTURES financial contributor and receive a

full tax deduction. For more information, you can visit our website ([www.njartscollective.org](http://www.njartscollective.org)) or [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/63667](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/63667). You will also be able to purchase tickets at the door.

All winners and their families will be invited to a pre-concert museum tour and reception. We will send you more information about this portion of the afternoon shortly. At 1:30pm, we will have a pre-concert panel that will include of the Grand Prize winners (Thomas, Christopher, Daniel and Ian), Dr. Darren Gage, and members of Exit 9 Percussion Group. The afternoon will continue when all winners will be honored by NJAC and Montclair Art Museum staff members at the beginning of the concert with a brief award ceremony. The Exit 9 Percussion Group will then perform the winning compositions and the commissioned composition from Dr. Darren Gage. The evening will conclude with a post-concert reception for everyone in attendance.

Please remember to submit (send to [njartscollective@comcast.net](mailto:njartscollective@comcast.net)):

1. a bio from all five winners (see bios above for examples)
2. a list of your music teachers and administrators and their contact information (email addresses preferred)
3. the name of your local newspaper

Please submit this information NO LATER THAN Friday, April 17.

We will also email you a Concert flyer, so feel free to post it at your school or forward it to anyone who might be interested in attending. Please let us know if you have any questions.

See you on April 26!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kimberly Burja  
NJAC Executive Director