

April 25, 2010

Dear Contest Winners:

Let me offer our congratulations once again for being selected as one of the Pictures 2010 Composition Contest Winners! We felt that the Composer's Forum at William Paterson University was a huge success and hopefully was a very useful educational experience for you. Everyone involved with NJAC, as well as the WPU composition and theory faculty, were incredibly impressed with the compositions. You should be very proud of your accomplishment!

In preparation for the May 8 concert, we need you to submit a bio for the PICTURES 2010 program. By Saturday, May 1, please email your bio to: njartscollective@comcast.net. Make sure to include information about your school, your musical career 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.

The schedule for May 8 is as follows:

11:45am-12pm	Meet Contest Administrator Dr. Gage at Montclair Art Museum
12pm-12:30pm	Guided tour of MAM collection
12:30-1pm	Families can continue tour; Contest winners will meet with Dr. Gage about pre-concert panel
1pm	Pre-concert panel
1:30pm	Awards presentation followed by Concert performance and post-concert reception

All winners will receive 2 complementary 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.njartscollective.org or by calling Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006 and asking for event 110363. Tickets prices are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Students / Children. For \$75, you can become a special PICTURES Financial Contributor. You will receive 2 tickets to the concert and recognition in the program. Because NJAC is a non-profit organization (501c3), your financial contribution is fully tax deductible. You will also be able to purchase tickets at the door.

In the next few days, the teachers and school administrators that you listed in your contest application will receive an invitation to the concert. Please encourage them to attend. I am also attaching a Concert flyer to this email, so feel free to post it at your school or forward it to anyone who might be interested in attending.

For more information, you can visit our website (www.njartscollective.org).

Please remember to submit (send to njartscollective@comcast.net) a bio for the concert program no later than Saturday, May 1.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

See you on May 8!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kimberly Burja
NJAC Executive Director