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NEWS RELEASE

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6th Annual Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition names 4 winners

(SANTA ROSA, CA)— On Saturday, November 6, 2010, 13 contestants participated in the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra's Concerto Competition. The young musicians, who ranged in age from 13 to 18, each appeared before a 3-judge panel consisting of Santa Rosa Symphony Principal Trumpet Doug Morton, SSU Director of Bands Andy Collinsworth and Rebecca Roudman, cellist with the Santa Rosa Symphony. Instruments represented in the competition were violin, viola, cello, tuba, flute, clarinet, piano and bassoon.

The four winners, are (in alphabetical order): 17-year-old Scotland Bonnie of Sebastopol who played the Stamitz Viola Concerto; 16-year-old Hannah Dyslin of Santa Rosa who played Mozart's Flute Concerto in G; 17-year-old Kirsten Skabelund of Santa Rosa who played Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4; and 17-year-old Marissa Zieminski of Santa Rosa who played the Flute Concerto in D by Reinecke. For flautist Zieminski, it was the third consecutive year as a winner in this competition. For violinist Skabelund, it was her second consecutive win.

The Concerto Competition winners will be featured as soloists in Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra concerts upcoming in 2011: Ms. Skabelund and Ms. Dyslin in March, Ms. Zieminski and Mr. Bonnie in May.

—A photo of the Concerto Competition winners is available upon request—

Concerto Competition Winners' Bios

Scotland Bonnie is 17 years old and has been playing the viola for two and a half years. Prior to that, he took violin for 10 years and still continues those studies. He currently takes viola lessons from Santa Rosa Symphony's Meg Eldridge and has in the past studied with Linda Ghidossi-DeLuca, Meg Titchner, Dom DiSarro, and Aaron Westman. Scotland has also been coached by Iris Stone, Karen Zimmermen, Jeannette Isenburg, and Marilyn Thompson. In addition to playing the viola and the violin, he has also played the piano for 14 years and studies the bagpipes. **He is currently principal violist in his second year of the Santa Rosa Symphony's Youth Orchestra** and took part in this year's Fall semester of the YPCO as their principal violist, under the directorship of Aaron Westman. He has been a part of the YPCO in the past, under Linda Ghidossi-DeLuca and George Thomson, as well as the Discovery and Preparatory Orchestras. He is the manager of the rising Nightingale Flute Quartet, which includes Marissa Zieminski, three-time winner of the Concerto Competition, and Gabe and Athena Wheaton, formerly of the YPCO. Along

with teaching beginning string and piano students, Scotland enjoys dancing, photography, performing, and playing Celtic violin and viola.

Hannah Dyslin, a flutist of eight years, is a junior at Maria Carrillo High School where she is the **principal flute and piccolo player in the Symphonic Band**. Her music has taken her all over the world. She has studied under Sr. Miguel Adria, principle flautist with the Madrid Symphony, Spain, was a member of a worship team in the Czech Republic where she practiced improvisation, and spent two weeks in Ireland studying Celtic music and tin whistle with musician John Ryan. Hannah has also participated in Northern California Honor Band for the past two years. She studies with professors from universities such as Stanford, USC, and Levine School of Music every summer at the Northern California Flute Camp. Hannah has studied under Mary Kemnec and Emily Reynolds and participated in master classes with Keith Underwood and Sir James and Lady Galway. She often plays flute in church services and the Christmas orchestra for the annual Singing Christmas Tree. Being selected as a winner of the concerto competition is her most recent and prominent achievement. Along with her music, Hannah loves building houses in Tijuana with her church and playing with the kids and practicing her Spanish.

Kirsten Skabelund, a native of Santa Rosa, is a 17-year-old senior at Santa Rosa High School. She started playing violin at age six and currently studies with Kathryn Marshall. Presently **concertmaster of the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra**, she has been a member of the orchestra since 2006. She was a winner of the 2009 Santa Rosa Youth Orchestra concerto competition and enjoyed the opportunity to perform as a soloist in the orchestra's Spring 2010 concert. In 2009, Kirsten won a first place award in the Santa Rosa Etude Competition – Senior Strings Division. She is concertmaster in the Santa Rosa High School String Orchestra and is an advocate for music in the public schools. As a member of the Santa Rosa Symphony's Young People's Chamber Orchestra from 2006 to 2009, Kirsten was a soloist in their spring and summer concerts, and performed in the Junior Bach Festival. She has also served as concertmaster of the Santa Rosa Junior College Orchestra and participated in Sonoma State Young Artists Chamber Ensembles. Kirsten is a member of the Lost Quartet and frequently plays for weddings, receptions church services and social events. She enjoys the outdoors, the stars, reading, good movies, and spending time with friends and family.

Marissa Zieminski is currently **principal flute in Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra**, Marissa has been a member of the Santa Rosa Symphony youth orchestras for the last seven years. She is a 17 year-old homeschooler in her senior year, and discovered her interest in music by studying piano with her mom at age six. Marissa sang for three years with the Santa Rosa Children's Chorus and has been playing flute for eight years. Under the direction of her teacher Emily Reynolds, Marissa was a winner in the senior winds division of both the 2008 and 2009 Etude Competitions. She also tied for first in both the 2008 and 2009 Youth Orchestra Concerto Competitions. Marissa has performed in a master class for Carol Wincenc, participated in a flute workshop with Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway, and attended a Sequoia Summer Chamber Music Workshop. She is a member of the Nightingale Flute Quartet, and plays solo flute at her church. In addition to her music, Marissa leads a church girls' group, and enjoys reading, sewing, gardening, hiking, making jewelry, and dancing.

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