

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Student Composers Win Top WSMA Awards**

MADISON, WI (May 14, 2003) – The Wisconsin School Music Association will honor winners of its 15th annual WSMA/DPI Student Composition Project May 27. Eleven students from across the state will be recognized for their creative musical work during a 1:00 pm awards ceremony at the State Capitol building, Madison.

Students will be addressed by WSMA Board of Directors President Allan Prosser and John Fortier, Director of Learning Support for the Department of Public Instruction. Select winning composition recordings will be played at the event. Winners' music teachers, principals, superintendents, parents, and other family members have been invited to attend.

The Student Composition Project is sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association and the Department of Public Instruction. Its goal is to encourage the positive artistic and creative musical abilities of Wisconsin students. An integral component of the National Standards for Music Education, the Student Composition Project is a fundamental extension of the creative element of music education specified in Wisconsin's music curriculum guide.

In the Middle School Division (grades 5-8), first place and Best Instrumental Ensemble awards went to Alex Kreger, a student at Pilgrim Park Middle School in Elm Grove, for his original composition "Piano Quintet in G Minor." Brian Schoettler, of Lincoln Middle School in Kenosha, took second place and Best Instrumental Jazz awards for "Phat Skat." Third place and Best Instrumental Solo awards were won by Nick Taylor, of Lance Middle School in Kenosha, for his piece, "Yellowstone."

In the High School Division (grades 9-12), several students were recognized. First place and Best Instrumental Jazz awards were given to Jon Ferch II, Racine Horlick High School, for his composition, "Chill." Second place and Best Instrumental Ensemble awards went to Max Hero of Wauwatosa East High School for his piece, "Adagio and Scherzo." Third place and honorable mention awards were earned by Joseph Stillwell, a student at Kohler High School, for "The Day is a Journey." Stillwell's "Prelude in B Flat Minor" took the Best Instrumental Solo award.

Other top honors in the high school and middle school divisions included:

- Best Vocal Solo, Neara Russell, River Valley High School, for "Dawn."
- Best Vocal Ensemble, Christin Buchholz, Wisconsin Dells High School, for "Glory to God."
- Best Collaborative Ensemble, Kasey Keeler and Ericka Palcic, Fontana Middle School, for "Just a Dream."

Statewide, 50 students in grades 5-12 submitted compositions to the WSMA in one of eight categories. A total of 37 students submitted compositions in the High School Division and 13 students entered the Middle School Division. All compositions were evaluated by two professional Wisconsin composers. The following high school students received honorable mention certificates for their compositions.

<b><u>Student's Name</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>	<b><u>Composition Title</u></b>	<b><u>Category</u></b>
Clifton Nesseth	Cameron High School	"At the Time"	Instrumental Solo
Alexander Zupan	Monona Grove High School	"Resonant Reveries"	Instrumental Solo
Garth Neustadter	Manitowoc Lutheran High School	"Variations on a Lenten Hymn"	Instrumental Solo
Christopher Gollmar	Wauwatosa East High School	"Atténde Dómine"	Vocal Ensemble

For more information about WSMA and the Student Composition Program, log on to [www.wsmamusic.org](http://www.wsmamusic.org).

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The Wisconsin School Music Association is a service organization with more than 1,000 member public and private schools. Last year, more than 200,000 students took the initiative to be involved in WSMA activities, including District and State Music Festivals, State Honors Projects, State Marching Band Championships, and Concert Festivals. The Association is governed by a Board of Directors made up of superintendents, principals, and other officers from all over our state. WSMA believes music is basic, and all children have a right to experience all that music offers them.