

PERSEVERENCE PAYS OFF FOR STUDENT COMPOSER

After tying for third place last year, Dale Trumbore, a senior at Chatham High School, has won the Grand Prize of Harmonium Choral Society's eighth annual high school student choral composition contest. She will receive an award of \$500 and her winning composition, *Sing to the Lord*, will be performed by Harmonium at their *Cantare del Cantare - Singing about Singing* - concerts on June 4th and 5th at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison. Emily Clader, a senior at Cranford High School, is First Runner-Up, receiving \$250 for her composition, *The Singing Girl*. Daniel Rufolo and Eric Youngdahl, both juniors at Summit High School, have won Honorable Mentions and \$100 each for their compositions *Bring Us to Sing* and *Heartful Song*, respectively.

For all the prize winners, the piano is a primary instrument. Both Dale and Emily are accomplished accompanists and choral singers. Another composition of Dale's, "Quartet in E Minor," won first place in the NJ Federation of Music Clubs contest for the 16-18 age category. Emily's first composition was performed by her high school's Madrigal Choir last year at a school concert, and again at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City under her direction. Daniel's passion is jazz. His first public performance of his own work was on the PBS children's program ZOOM when he was eleven. Erik comes from a musical family, where he has gotten a lot of exposure to vocal music from an early age. The pieces he sings in three different high school choruses and the piano music he studies inspire his own compositions.

Composition contest registration is announced in the fall, with applications and guidelines mailed to high school music directors throughout the state. The contest information is also posted on the chorus' website, www.harmonium.org. Submitted manuscripts, scrubbed of all forms of identification, are given to a panel of judges - all professional musicians. This year's judges were Anne Matlack, the Artistic Director of Harmonium, organist, flutist and frequent choral adjudicator; Mark Miller, gospel choir director, music faculty member at Drew Theological School, and Harmonium's Composer-in-Residence; Ted Corson, composer and Harmonium bass with a musical typesetting and arrangement business; Jason Tramm, Rutgers conducting faculty member and Chorus Master of the New Jersey State Opera; Edie Hill, whose composition in celebration of its 25th anniversary Harmonium will also be premiering at the June 4th and 5th concerts; and Matthew Harris, Manhattan musicologist and composer whose *A Child's Christmas in Wales* was a sell-out when Harmonium premiered it in 2002. All contestants, not just the winners, receive written comments from the judges; and early registrants were given the opportunity for one-on-one tutoring in composition with Johnathan Reale, Harmonium tenor and contest coordinator, who is also a vocal ensemble composer and arranger.

Harmonium Choral Society, named Outstanding Arts Organization in 1998 by the Arts Council of the Morris Area, is a 75-voice chorus which performs diverse styles of music with a focus on the community. In addition to its own concerts which are designed to appeal to a wide audience, it sings at nursing homes, schools and Unity concerts. One of its key missions is to advance the choral art form through commissioning new works and sponsoring an annual New Jersey high school student composition contest.

Believing this contest "fills a niche in Music Education in the state of New Jersey" and "offers clear goals for musically talented students to strive towards, introduces them to artistic peers and musical mentors, and for the winners, provides a financial incentive and a much-coveted CD recording by the Chorus," the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation continues to fund this contest very generously. Additional funding has been made possible in part by funds from the Arts Council of the Morris Area through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.