



November 18, 2008

Dear Educator:

As we prepare for the youngARTS 2009 adjudications, we would like to inform you of a policy change in the scoring procedure for our adjudication method. Effective this year, youngARTS/NFAA will no longer provide scores as part of the adjudication process. This year approximately 6,000 applications were received in all nine youngARTS disciplines. The rigorous adjudication process by which a young artist goes through is an accomplishment that reflects highly on the students' ability and motivation and their determination of pursuing the arts. That in itself is a great achievement that should not be taken lightly. youngARTS/NFAA carefully evaluates all audition/portfolio materials by panels in each artistic discipline and the evaluation process consists of an all encompassing approach rather than a discrete scoring of various aspects of ability in a given art form. Therefore, it is possible to have been regarded above or well above average by the panelists without having received an award. The mission of youngARTS/NFAA is to identify emerging artists and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Let's honor America's talented students by encouraging their hard work and great achievements.

Sincerely,

**Roberta Behrendt-Fliss
Vice President, Programs**

**Christina DePaul
President and CEO**