



2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts

Jared Brown | Dance

Jared Brown's first introduction to the performing arts was as a musician: he played violin for ten years before ever thinking about dance. He found his true passion in high school, and has since been completely committed. Mr. Brown is the recipient of many Texas-based scholarships through the Dance Council of North Texas and was named a Texas Young Master in Modern Dance in 2014. He was awarded the Outstanding Student Choreography Award from the National High School Dance Festival and, in addition to being recognized by the National YoungArts Foundation as a finalist in modern dance, was also awarded an Honorable Mention in Choreography. Performance experiences include work at Booker T. Washington HSPVA, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and Beckles Dancing Company.

Victoria Canal Tinius | Voice

"Traveling has helped me understand and connect with people with all sorts of different perspectives and mindsets, helping me figure out what it truly means to live life " An experienced traveler, Ms. Canal Tinius has lived in several international cities including Munich, Shanghai, Tokyo, Dubai, Barcelona, and Madrid. She has been featured on television shows and radio as well as in newspapers and online magazines all around the world, and was awarded two full-tuition scholarships to the Berklee Five-Week Summer Performance Program. A winner of Amateur Night at the Apollo, she also self-released her EP with a sold-out release show at the renowned venue Eddie's Attic. Ms. Canal Tinius has successfully raised money for more than 10,000 meals for people in need through benefit concerts and online campaigns.

Ruwanthi Ekanayake | Writing

In sharing what motivates her to create her work, Ms. Ekanayake explains that "writing lets me pay more attention to the little details of my own life, which in turn spurs me to be more aware about others' stories." Her work has been featured in her school's literary magazine as well as by the National English Honor Society. Ms. Ekanayake has also self-published a book of children's poetry entitled *A Bag Full of Everything*. Knowing that stories cross borders and bring people together, she donates copies of her book to pediatric hospitals as a tool to encourage creativity among patients.

Diana Eusebio | Design Arts

Diana Eusebio's work has been shown in several Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH) fashion shows and she also enjoys taking on leadership positions. As the current CEO of DASH Fashion Club, she is responsible for organizing the fashion shows; directing other officers, designers, and models during fashion shows; leading meetings; and coordinating model practices. She was voted 2016 class president and is a 2016 Scholastic Art Award National Silver Medalist for Fashion and 2015 Silver Key winner for Visual Art. She is also a member of several academic National Honor Societies. Ms. Eusebio cites nature and the environment as influencing her work, and also says that "sewing and constructing garments are the best part in the

design process ... [s]ince it finally comes to life; transforming from 2D designs to 3D form.”

Lydia Graham | Voice

Lydia Grace Graham, soprano, ranked third in her graduating class, attended the Kentucky Center Governor's School for the Arts and performed at the Kentucky Governor's Mansion 100th Anniversary Gala in 2014. She has received first-place honors from competitions such as the Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition, Alltech Vocal Scholarship Competition, mid-south regional NATS competitions (2014-16), UK Vocal Competition for Young Singers, and second place at the National NATS Student Auditions. Ms. Graham is a choral singer, violist, the president of her school's National Honor Society, an officer on her school's speech and debate team, and participates in community theater. She is very involved in her church and “strives to give all glory to God on her journey to become a professional opera singer.”

Lauryn Hobbs | Theater

Lauryn Hobbs writes that her “sense of obligation and commitment” are what set her apart, and that “It would take eight billion people to make me stop believing in myself. Luckily there are only seven billion.” Originally interested in becoming a cartoonist, Ms. Hobbs started acting when she was cast in a production of *The Wiz* at a local youth theater. This past fall she joined the cast of *The Crucible* at the Tony Award-winning Cleveland Playhouse. In addition to acting, Ms. Hobbs enjoys playwriting and music composition. She was a 2015 YoungArts Honorable Mention winner and winner in several show choir competitions. She is currently a LEAD scholar at the University of Michigan.

Katerina McCrimmon | Theater

A student and performer at New World School of the Arts, Katerina McCrimmon has been named a New Playwrights Festival winner and District Thespian Festival Critic's Choice winner for Solo, Duet, and Small Group Musical Performance. She has also garnered such awards as the Arts for Life and Carbonell Scholarships. Ms. McCrimmon has performed at French Woods Festival of Performing Arts, Miami Children's Theater (MCT), and Area Stage Company. She is an associated artist at Heidi's Jazz Club in Cocoa Beach, Florida, and Belmont Children's lullabies. This summer Ms. McCrimmon will serve as assistant director at MCT before commencing her B.M. in the music theater program at Florida State University. She is a fervent feminist and vegetarian, and admits to spending much of her free time attending live theater.

Pavithra Nagarajan | Dance

Pavithra Nagarajan has been training in Bharatanatyam (the South Indian classical dance form of Tamil Nadu) for the past 11 years with Ms. Deepa Mahadevan. She is an avid performer and has both won and judged competitions, participated in productions, and performed multiple full-length solo recitals in the US and abroad. She has received press recognition for her work in newspapers and magazines and currently is exploring teaching at Tiruchitrambalam School of Dance. In addition to her dancing, Ms. Nagarajan is a Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program alumna (Facebook headquarters) and is also a Carnatic vocal singer. Although Bharatanatyam forms a huge part of who she is, she has also been a Youth Advisory Commissioner for the city of Fremont for three years.

Dario Natarelli | Dance

At the urging of his tap dance teacher, Dario Natarelli and his family moved from Colorado to New York City so he could continue to hone his skills. He has danced in the Off-Broadway show *Tappin' Thru Life* and was a principal dancer in the 2016 film *Breaking Brooklyn* starring Louis Gossett, Jr. He can be seen in national commercials for Macy's, Safeway, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Time Warner Cable, and Children's Place. Mr. Natarelli is on his high school honor roll, was named a Capezio Athlete,

received a full scholarship to the School at Jacob's Pillow Professional Advancement Program (2014), and was just named the 2016 Scholar-In-Residence for the Vail International Dance Festival. He is a proud member of both AEA and SAG/ AFTRA.

Isabella Nilsson | Writing

Isabella Nilsson is a winner of Aerie International's Norman Maclean Nonfiction Award 2014 and a National Merit semifinalist/ National Hispanic Scholar and 2015 AP Scholar with Distinction. Other honors include being named a Scholastic Gold Medalist in the Short Story 2015, and seeing her work featured in Scholastic's *The Best Teen Writing of 2015* anthology. She is the prose editor for *The Adroit Journal*, and her work is included in the online magazine *Textplot*. She has three beautiful dogs and has "been fortunate enough to grow up in a lively, multicultural blended family, where all of [her] artistic pursuits have always been encouraged."

Aubree Oliverson | Music

Aubree Oliverson is a multifaceted performer and communicator. In the seventh grade Ms. Oliverson and her father (a self-taught pianist) traveled to schools in the Intermountain West to perform programs of interactive music. In three years they performed for an estimated 40,000 children in 100 different schools. This fueled Ms. Oliverson's love for educational outreach as well as for performance. She now performs solo with several orchestras, has received the "Hope of America" academic award, and has won national and international violin competitions. She loves sharing her music with others. "It doesn't matter who my audience is: children, classically trained adults, people hearing the name 'Brahms' for the first time, retirement community residents, [or] military veterans ... all of it is thrilling."

Rachel Page | Writing

Before she could hold a pencil, Rachel Page dictated stories and asked her parents to write them. Now Ms. Page has received multiple Scholastic Art & Writing Awards including: Best in Grade Award (2013), American Voices Award (2015), and seven National Gold Medals (2013-15). She was published in the winter 2015 issue of *The Adroit Journal* and, in 2014, attended the Iowa Young Writers' Studio. Although she considers herself very quiet, she spent three years on her school's policy debate team. Magical realism is one of her favorite genres.

Zachary Rapaport | Visual Arts

Zachary Rapaport was a 2014 YoungArts Merit winner and has been recognized by Scholastic Art & Writing with Gold Medals in 2012 and 2015, two Silver Medals in 2014, and a Silver Medal with Distinction for his portfolio in 2016. He has also received recognition from the Micato Tours photography contest, Photographer's Forum Photography Contest, and the CIA 2D3D National Art + Design Competition. He displayed in solo exhibitions in 2014 and 2016. In addition to his art, Mr. Rapaport volunteers at Urban Youth Impact, a facility designed to positively influence less fortunate children in the West Palm Beach area. He co-founded the UYI SK, helping raise more than \$80,000 for the center, and is the co-founder of the Sari Center SK Run/Walk.

Ben Ross | Theater

Ben Ross' honors include the Music Center Spotlight Award's grand prize in non-classical voice (2016), YoungArts Honorable Mention (2014), and winner of Kiwanis Vocal Competition (2013, 2015). He is the arts and entertainment editor for his school newspaper, president of the Samohi choral program, and a member of the Samohi Theatre board. He works with Artribe, a non-profit that organizes an annual Los Angeles student art show that benefits the SPIRAL Foundation, which provides humanitarian aid programs in Vietnam and Nepal. His favorite roles include Pippin (*Pippin*), Jack (*Into the Woods*), Karl Lind-

ner (*Clybourne Park*), Jerry (*The Zoo Story*), and Ali Hakim (*Oklahoma!*). He attended summer programs at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, Carnegie Mellon University, and New York University, and will be attending Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama.

Audrey Spensley | Writing

Most recently, Audrey Spensley was the 2016 recipient of the Lamar York Prize in Fiction and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *The Blueshift Journal*. Her poetry is published in or forthcoming from *Hobart*, *plain china*, and Scholastic's *The Best Teen Writing of 2015*, among others. Ms. Spensley was a 2014 Foyle Young Poet of the year, and her work has received four national Gold Medals and a Best in Grade Award from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. She participated in the 2014 *Adroit Journal* Summer Mentorship Program and currently serves as a poetry reader for *The Adroit Journal*. Her work is mainly influenced by moments in everyday life, and her favorite book of poetry is *Life on Mars* by Tracy K. Smith.

Sean Stack | Theater

Born and raised in Miami, Sean Stack credits his “fairly avant-garde high school in which diversity was not only accepted, but was also encouraged” for the opportunity to flourish. This year Mr. Stack was named a National Merit Scholar finalist, and he is also president of his senior class. He is an avid participant in many theater performances. Some of the past productions that he has either acted in or directed include *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *O Beautiful*, *Snow Leopards*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Kaylin Sturtevant | Dance

Kaylin Sturtevant started dancing at six years of age and now trains at Dance Industry Performing Arts Center. She has attended summer intensives with the Alonzo King Lines Ballet, has performed works by Jessica Lang and Jonathan Campbell at Dallas Dance Fest, and performed works by Lar Lubovitch, Manuel Vignouille, Jason Ambrose, Jonathan Campbell, Jodie Gates, Max Stone, and Brynt Beitman at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She is a National Honor Society member and a 2015 YoungArts Merit winner. Ms. Sturtevant will be attending the University of Southern California Glorya Kaufman School of Dance as a Merit Scholar this fall.

Cornelius Tulloch | Visual Arts

Cornelius Tulloch serves as head of his school's architecture club and co-vice president of its National Art Honor Society. He considers his tendency to “overthink” a good quality in that it allows him “to develop complex projects and pieces with which people can have a connection or memorable interaction.” His awards include a Silver Medal in Architecture at the 2015 NAACP's National ACT-SO competition, five National Medals and six regional Medals in the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition, and a Gold Medal in Painting. He is also the recipient of several scholarships and is an AP Scholar with Honor.

Nadia Wolff | Visual Arts

Whether through reinventions of the traditional Communion dress' silhouette and materials, laborious embroidery studies, collage work, or paintings, Nadia Wolff uses art as a form of documentation. “Each piece documents my examination of the subtle presence of conflicts between femininity, masculinity, androgyny, and other gender presentations within the cultural groups of sexuality, race, religion, and class.” Nadia Wolff is an AP Scholar with Distinction, and has won local Gold Scholastic Writing Portfolio and Silver Scholastic Art Awards. Also the vice president of DASH National Honor Society and co-founder and co-president of DASH Gay Straight Alliance, Nadia Wolff's work has shown in exhibitions at Ogelsby Union Gallery (Tallahassee, Florida), The Moore Building (Miami, Florida), and House of Art Gallery (Miami, Florida).