TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL
Achievement in the Arts
AWARDS

2019 AWARDS OF ARTISTIC MERIT

Supplement to the Tribune-Review
AWARDS OF ARTISTIC MERIT

Westmoreland Cultural Trust’s 21st Annual Achievement in the Arts Awards Celebration

Westmoreland Cultural Trust (WCT) is proud to honor the artistic talents of Westmoreland County high school seniors at their 21st Annual Achievement in the Arts Awards Celebration at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, at the historic Palace Theatre.

As a pillar in the cultural community, WCT is proud to host this annual celebration at The Palace for its second year, as the event continues to grow.

WCT is most notably known as the owner and manager of The Palace Theatre and works to promote the performing arts and preserve and enhance the region’s assets for the benefit of the community.

“Achievement in the Arts is Westmoreland County’s sports award for creatives!” said Kelli Brisbane, director of corporate engagement and events. “This celebration of the arts has evolved during my time with WCT. We do our best to accommodate requests from teachers, students and families, while also staying true to the original concept that was created at the event’s inception.”

“We have been fortunate to have a lot of support from people in the community who believe in the arts,” said Joette Salandro, teacher at Greensburg Central Catholic and one of the founding members of this celebration.

Teachers from each of the 18 schools in Westmoreland County were eligible to nominate four seniors for an achievement award in the categories of theatre, visual art, instrumental performance and vocal performance (previously music). WCT received 70 nominations out of a possible 72 and will honor these students with a ceremony on The Palace Theatre stage.

Each awardee receives a complimentary ticket to the event which includes a pre-award celebration with food and beverage, a commemorative pin for their graduation sash, and an award presented by cultural leaders in the county (Nancy P. Anderson, Westmoreland Cultural Trust interim CEO; Joan McGarry, director of education & visitor engagement at The Westmoreland Museum of American Art; Endicott Reindl, executive director of Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra; and a representative from Westmoreland Choral Society).

The Honorable Jim Silvis and Meagan Bilik DeFazio will also return for their second year, joining the other notables by announcing the awardees.

“Our hope is that we can receive future grant funding or donations to afford us the ability to offer monetary scholarships,” Brisbane said.

“It would need to be sustainable and something that continues each year. For now, we thank our sponsors for allowing us the opportunity to continue this tradition as is.”

“Without our corporate partners and sponsors, we would not be able to honor these deserving students and help keep the arts alive and thriving in Westmoreland County.”


Burrell

Kelci Sopko
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents/guardians: Rich and Linda Sopko
Future plans: College for anthropology

Alex Capsambelis
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents/guardians: Mark and Dana Capsambelis
Future plans: College

Ashley Roberts
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parent/guardian: Jenna Roberts
Future plans: College

Lindsay Tate
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parent/guardian: Aaron Tate
Future plans: College

Gabriel Reed
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents/guardians: Joyce and James Reed
Future plans: Pre-dental at Waynesburg University

Corrine Manderino
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents/guardians: Betsy and Tom Manderino
Future plans: University of Richmond for theatre with a minor in arts management

Achievement in the Arts Sponsor
FirstEnergy Foundation
Andrew Lang
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parent/guardian: Yvonne White
Future plans: College for musical theatre

Megan Swift
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents/guardians: Melissa and Eric Swift
Future plans: Penn State Schreyer Honors College for music education

Sarah Poklemba
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents/guardians: Cori and Jeffrey Poklemba
Future plans: Attend Juniata College to study biology, environmental science and theatre arts

Kora Malie
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents/guardians: Kristin and William Malie
Future plans: Speech and language pathology at Clarion University

Emily Henigin
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents/guardians: James and Kate Henigin
Future plans: Laurel Business Institute for massage therapy. She hopes to employ her craft in a medical setting.

Lauren DeLuca
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents/guardians: John and Maria DeLuca
Future plans: Virginia Commonwealth University for occupational therapy

Katelyn Denman
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parent/guardian: Cynthia Denman
Future plans: Duquesne University for music education and a minor in business. Plans to be a music teacher.

Robert Dietrich
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents/guardians: R.J. and Karen Dietrich
Future plans: Taking a gap year to work on music, tour with his band and audition for professional shows.

Levi Eaglehouse
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parent/guardian: Linda Eaglehouse
Future plans: Military

Charlie Hough
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents/guardians: Sarah and Justin Hough
Future plans: Syracuse University for musical theatre

Zachary Gilkey
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents/guardians: Brian and Christy Gilkey
Future plans: Attend Seton Hill University to study communication: advocacy media and minor in theater.

Katelyn Denman
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parent/guardian: Cynthia Denman
Future plans: Duquesne University for music education and a minor in business. Plans to be a music teacher.

Marley Sites
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parent/guardian: Janelle Marshall
Future plans: Occupational therapy at Pitt/Greensburg, then transfer to main campus for a PhD.

Casey Guidry
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parents/guardians: Lisa and Michael Guidry
Future plans: University of Maryland for biology

Michelle Douglas
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parents/guardians: William Douglas and Margarita Rincon-Choles
Future plans: California University of Pennsylvania for digital media technology

Molly Krumszyinski
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parent/guardian: Barbara Krumszyinski
Future plans: Four-year college for arts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Artistic merit in:</th>
<th>Parents/guardians:</th>
<th>Future plans:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Josie Rodell</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Chris and Valerie Rodell</td>
<td>College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kayla Holsopple</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Christine and Ronald Holsopple</td>
<td>Music education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tate McElhaney</td>
<td>Theatre Performance</td>
<td>Ron and Colleen McElhaney</td>
<td>University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music for musical theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin DiFrancesco</td>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>Stefan and Chastity DiFrancesco</td>
<td>College for an art-related career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Marino</td>
<td>Theatre Performance</td>
<td>Tony and Renata Marino</td>
<td>Pursue musical theater at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachael Hollar</td>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>Jason and Elizabeth Hollar</td>
<td>Tyler School of Art for B.F.A. with entrepreneurial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logan Evans</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Donald and Rebecca Evans</td>
<td>Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becca Tyger</td>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>Maria and David Tyger</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg for criminal justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promise Albert</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Davina and James Zummo</td>
<td>Seton Hill University for a double major in music performance and music education</td>
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<td>Hope Albert</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Dan and Patti Albert</td>
<td>Belmont University</td>
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<td>Luka Krachanko</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Megan Krachanko</td>
<td>Minor in music at IUP</td>
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<td>David Smith</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Robyn Smith</td>
<td>Music education major</td>
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<td>Brittany Carl</td>
<td>Theatre Performance</td>
<td>Stacy Swanson and John Carl</td>
<td>Navy</td>
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<td>Sarah Williams</td>
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<td>Jennifer Sillett</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Rachael Hollar</td>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>Maria and David Tyger</td>
<td>Art education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison Hall</td>
<td>Artistic merit in:</td>
<td>Sonja and Dustin Hall</td>
<td>Art education</td>
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<td>Ligonier Valley</td>
<td>Monessen</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant Area</td>
<td>Norwin</td>
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<td><strong>Faith McDowell</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: Ron and Bobbi McDowell&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Seton Hill University for music education</td>
<td><strong>Olivia Peralta</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance&lt;br&gt;Parent/guardian: Samantha Quinn&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Anesthesiologist</td>
<td><strong>Helena Baumgardner</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance&lt;br&gt;Parent/guardian: Thomas Watson&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Seton Hill University for musical theatre and performing arts</td>
<td><strong>James Stanley</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: James and Stacey Stanley&lt;br&gt;Future plans: College for elementary education or music therapy</td>
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<td><strong>Garrett Crusan</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: Steve and Lillian Crusan&lt;br&gt;Future plans: New York University for jazz studies</td>
<td><strong>Shania Lakin</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: Zane and Kristin Lakin&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Nursing school</td>
<td><strong>Kristen Collins</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: Frederick and Mary Collins&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Forensic psychology</td>
<td><strong>Nieko Disso</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: Daniel and Lisa Disso&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Plans to study music education, undecided on college</td>
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<td><strong>Elsa Klotz</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: Charles Klotz and Lisa Hood&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Environmental science</td>
<td><strong>Albert Johnson</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance&lt;br&gt;Parent/guardian: Tiffany Rawlins&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Computer programming</td>
<td><strong>Blake Woodmancy</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: Eric and Cindy Woodmancy&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Air traffic controller for the Air Force</td>
<td><strong>Carolyn Tachoir</strong>&lt;br&gt;Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance&lt;br&gt;Parents/guardians: Jack and Kristen Tachoir&lt;br&gt;Future plans: Catholic University of America in Rome School of Music, Drama and Art for bachelor’s in musical theatre</td>
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<td>School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn-Trafford</td>
<td>Angelique Morante</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Anthony and Tamara Morante</td>
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<td>Kaelei Whitlatch</td>
<td>Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Keith and Beverly Whitlatch</td>
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<td>Southmoreland</td>
<td>Elizabeth Schachte</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Donna and Richard Schachte</td>
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<td>Eliazar Moyes</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Tyrone Moyes and Stephanie Cruz</td>
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<td>Valley</td>
<td>Emma Garris</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Dennis Garris and Kathy Kelly Garris</td>
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<td>Nolan Franks</td>
<td>Artistic merit in:</td>
<td>Dianne Franks</td>
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<td>Anthony Ohler</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Lee and Renee Ohler</td>
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<td>Dylan Opalinski</td>
<td>Artistic merit in:</td>
<td>Sarah and Vincent Opalinski</td>
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<td>Tony Brayo</td>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>Harold and Gina Brayo</td>
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<td>Toni Brayo</td>
<td>Artistic merit in:</td>
<td>Mary Jo and Brian Montgomery</td>
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<td>Cole Leasher</td>
<td>Theatre Performance</td>
<td>Bert and Nicole Leasher</td>
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<td>Madia Landman</td>
<td>Artistic merit in:</td>
<td>Randy and Dawn Landman</td>
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<td>Toni Bravo</td>
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<td>Harold and Gina Bravo</td>
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<td>Riya Simone Howze</td>
<td>Artistic merit in:</td>
<td>Shaina Murray</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grace Comini</td>
<td>Artistic merit in:</td>
<td>Anna Comini</td>
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A LOOK BACK

Scenes from the 2018 Achievement in the Arts Awards Celebration

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