ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS

22ND ANNUAL 2020 AWARDS OF ARTISTIC MERIT

SUPPLEMENT TO THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW
AWARDS OF ARTISTIC MERIT

Westmoreland Cultural Trust’s 22nd Annual Achievement in the Arts Awards Celebration goes virtual

For more than 20 years, Westmoreland Cultural Trust has been honoring the artistic merit of graduating seniors throughout Westmoreland County. As always, the show must go on!

This year, the recipients of the 22nd Annual Achievement in the Arts Awards will be recognized in a video awards ceremony. The showcase will be on Sunday, June 7, beginning at 5 p.m. “During our current world health crisis, celebrating those who excel in the arts is more important than ever,” according to April Kopas, CEO, Westmoreland Cultural Trust. “We need to recognize our future artists.”

This year’s ceremony honors students from 17 Westmoreland County high schools in the categories of instrumental performance, visual art, vocal performance and theatre performance.

Students will be presented their awards by cultural leaders via a series of personal video messages.

The presentations will be accompanied by samples of students’ work and messages from their families that will be produced into a full-length, video ceremony. “This graduating class of 2020 has had to sacrifice a great deal for the safety of our community,” states Adam Seifert, manager of corporate and community engagement for WCT.

“Our organization is committed to publicly honoring the amazing talents and artistic achievements of these students.” The awards will be presented in each category by cultural leaders including Endicott Reindl, executive director of The Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra; Joan McGarry, director of education & visitor engagement for The Westmoreland Museum of American Art; Tony Marino, founder and artistic director, Stage Right!

School for the Performing Arts; and Susan Mahady, business manager for Westmoreland Choral Society.

The Achievement in the Arts Awards have evolved since their inception in 1999. Originating as the “Judges McCormick and Pezze Award of Artistic Merit” presented by the Greensburg Area Cultural Council, the awards banquet was held at St. Vincent College for many years.

With time, the awards were hosted by Seton Hill University, Westmoreland County Community College and Greensburg Garden & Civic Center before finding a home in Westmoreland County’s preeminent theatre, The Palace.

The 2020 awards will mark another evolution in honoring excellence in the arts as the awards will be presented virtually, allowing WCT to continue the tradition of shining a light on emerging artists in the community because the show must go on.

The video awards ceremony will be released across online digital platforms including Facebook, YouTube, and Westmoreland Cultural Trust’s website.

Achievement in the Arts Sponsors

Burrell

Chandler Barchis
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Carrie Hoffman, Shawn Barchis, and Robert Finnigan
Future plans: College for music technology

Maddy Bodick
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parent: Shari Jablonowski
Future plans: Forensic science at Seton Hill

Mason Ciesielski
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents: Matthew and Jennifer Ciesielski
Future plans: Youngstown State University to pursue a degree in jazz saxophone performance

Nick Grabigel
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Jeff and Kathy Grabigel
Future plans: Youngstown State University for music performance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Artistic merit in:</th>
<th>Parent(s)</th>
<th>Future plans:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Geary</td>
<td>Theatre Performance</td>
<td>Jeanette Geary</td>
<td>Point Park University for sports, arts, and entertainment management, specializing in arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney Campbell</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Nora Berkey and Tom Campbell</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State University for elementary and mid-level math education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Cox</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Anita and Mark Cox</td>
<td>Duquesne University for trumpet performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmy Cribbs</td>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>Jane and Mike Cribbs</td>
<td>Study kinetic imaging at Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Jellison</td>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>Mark and Mary Jellison</td>
<td>Pursue bachelor’s degree in graphic design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo-Michelle Huczko</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Jo-Ann and Roger Huczko</td>
<td>Carnegie Mellon University for political science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecilia Long</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Anne Levri and Michael Long</td>
<td>Major in health and rehabilitation sciences at Pittsburgh at Greensburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connor Petrunak</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Ronald Petrunak</td>
<td>Attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
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<td>Isaac Kott</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Joe and Mary Kott</td>
<td>Rochester Institute of Technology to pursue a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Lasher</td>
<td>Instrumental Performance</td>
<td>Andy and Trish Lasher</td>
<td>Youngstown State University for music education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renee Meyers</td>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>Danielle Meyers and Mark Anthony</td>
<td>Four years at Point Park University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maura Rygg</td>
<td>Theatre Performance</td>
<td>Sandy and Steve Rygg</td>
<td>BFA in drama at NYU Tisch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Main</td>
<td>Vocal Performance</td>
<td>Jessica Stofko</td>
<td>Attend UPG for biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vishal Pandey</td>
<td>Theatre Performance</td>
<td>Vinod and Radha Pandey</td>
<td>Pursue acting at NYU Tisch School of the Arts Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Takitch</td>
<td>Theatre Performance</td>
<td>David and Molly Takitch</td>
<td>Earning a PharmD from University of Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taylor Huss
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parents: Elizabeth and Robert Huss
Future plans: To study art at Seton Hill and work toward becoming a teacher

Benjamin Petro
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents: Roxanne and Timothy Petro
Future plans: Carnegie Mellon University, majoring in international relations

Alexander Podolinski
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Mike and Leslie Podolinski
Future plans: Westmoreland County Community College for regular academics

Madison Wood
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Chris and Eva Wood
Future plans: Westmoreland County Community College for dental hygienist program and pursue musical theater

Ryan Dzurko
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parent: Susan Dzurko
Future plans: Music education

Elenore Kent
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parents: Chris and Colleen Kent
Future plans: Seton Hill University for art education

Grace Rusnica
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Edward and Lynn Rusnica
Future plans: University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music to earn a BFA in musical theatre

Madison Sano
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Jeff and Jennifer Sano
Future plans: College

Logan Harshell
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents: James and Lori Harshell
Future plans: Saint Vincent majoring in finance

Abigail Hostetler
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parents: David and Michelle Lint
Future plans: College

Jocelyn Bentley
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents: Mike and Vicky Bentley
Future plans: Music therapy at Slippery Rock University

Morgan Kastelic
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Donald and Dawn Kastelic
Future plans: West Virginia University to study forensic biology

Isabella Mercurio
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parents: Michele Mercurio and Frank Mercurio Jr.
Future plans: Gannon University for mechanical engineering

Alexandra Podolinski
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Mike and Leslie Podolinski
Future plans: Westmoreland County Community College for regular academics

Madison Sano
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Jeff and Jennifer Sano
Future plans: College

Alana Winters
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Ty Daniels and Nicole Winters
Future plans: Plan to either be a special effects makeup artist or a tattoo artist

Ashley Neff
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Jared and Tracey Neff
Future plans: West Virginia University to major in nursing with a minor in theatre

Achievement in the Arts Sponsors
Harrington Luther
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Robb and Laurie Luther
Future plans: Berklee College of Music to major in songwriting

Joshua Anderson
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Jeff and Nicole Anderson
Future plans: Waynesburg University majoring in pre-med

Sarah Etling
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parents: Jeff Etling and Susan Bork
Future plans: University for environmental science with the hopes of becoming an environmental lawyer

Chelsea Biehl
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents: Timothy and Tricia Biehl
Future plans: Seton Hill University for Music Therapy

Grace Maust
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parent: Melissa Maust
Future plans: Either Parsons School of Design or Edinboro University to pursue a career in illustration

Zane Lakin
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents: Zane and Kristin Lakin
Future plans: Going to school for truck driving

Jeremiah Hutter
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents: Christy and Chad Hutter
Future plans: California University of PA for commercial music technology

Kailee Scalise
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Bill and Kristi Scalise
Future plans: University of Pittsburgh’s College of Business to pursue a degree in supply chain management

Tyler Pickup
Artistic merit in: Instrumental Performance
Parents: Tom and Monica Pickup
Future plans: California University of Pennsylvania for commercial music technology

Milana Sacco
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: John Sacco and Marissa Scarvel Sacco
Future plans: Case Western Reserve University to pursue a dual major in business and theatre

Wheeler Whitten
Artistic merit in: Vocal Performance
Parents: Lisa Clark and Thomas Whitten
Future plans: Point Park University as an undecided major

Em Taylor
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parents: Bob and Tammy Taylor
Future plans: Chatham University to double major in interior architecture and vocal performance

Dirk Wynn
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Aaron and Michelle Bouch
Future plans: Chatham University for music education and arts management

Rayna Winston
Artistic merit in: Visual Art
Parent: Joy Blystone
Future plans: Cal U for multimedia and police academy

Elijah Wilson
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Toni and Leslie Wilson
Future plans: College at Point Park or IUP

Jaelyn Taylor
Artistic merit in: Theatre Performance
Parents: Jerry and Ginger Taylor
Future plans: Chatham University to double major in interior architecture and vocal performance

Achievement in the Arts Sponsors
Morgan Bruni
Artistic merit in:
Theatre Performance
Parent: Janine Hribal
Future plans: Slippery Rock University to study civil engineering

Joselyn Busato
Artistic merit in:
Visual Art
Parents: Michael and Jennifer Busato
Future plans: Major in English at Bucknell University

Morgan Patton
Artistic merit in:
Instrumental Performance
Parents: Harold and Rachael Patton
Future plans: Special education teacher

Peyton Aujay
Artistic merit in:
Vocal Performance
Parents: Mike and Rita Aujay
Future plans: Westminster College to pursue a degree in music education

Aaron Jones
Artistic merit in:
Instrumental Performance
Parents: Holly and Michael Andrews, Dan Jones
Future plans: Major in accounting at University of Pittsburgh

Brianna Demagall
Artistic merit in:
Instrumental Performance
Parent: Russ Berresford
Future plans: Psychology major at Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Adam Richardson
Artistic merit in:
Theatre Performance
Parents: Carrie and Eric Orosz
Future plans: Major in musical theatre at AMDA college

Morgan Carpenter
Artistic merit in:
Visual Art
Parent: Richele Augustine
Future plans: X-ray technician and continue doing art on the side

Jordan Sapp
Artistic merit in:
Visual Art
Parents: Melissa Slifkey, Joseph Sapp and Bernard Robinson
Future plans: Undecided

Cameron Hoak
Artistic merit in:
Theatre Performance
Parent: Melina Mitchell
Future plans: Cal U for design, entertainment and technology

Joshua Shelkey
Artistic merit in:
Vocal Performance
Parents: Patricia and David Shelkey
Future plans: Study psychology at Westmoreland County Community College

Alexa Cipra
Artistic merit in:
Theatre Performance
Parents: Kelly and Bill Cipra
Future plans: Study elementary education and special education at California University

Abigail Whitlatch
Artistic merit in:
Vocal Performance
Parents: Beverly and Keith Whitlatch
Future plans: Study music therapy at Seton Hill University

Renee Patricio
Artistic merit in:
Instrumental Performance
Parents: Rhonda and Allan Patricio
Future plans: University of Pittsburgh to major in accounting

Julia Vislosky
Artistic merit in:
Vocal Performance
Parents: Shari and Phil Vislosky
Future plans: IUP for Spanish education K-12
LOOKING BACK

Scenes from the 2019 Achievement in the Arts Awards Celebration

Westmoreland Cultural Trust sponsors
CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS Awardees

The Trust was created as a community response to preserve the arts. Whether on the stage or on a canvas, art has the power to bring people together across boundaries and enrich the lives of those we touch through music and visual arts.

In these unique times, our team is working tirelessly to bring live music and art from our stage to your home. Daily, we feature local musicians on our social media sites and are focusing on a quality virtual platform for all cultural organizations to utilize in the short-term and in the future. In addition, the Trust is working on a strategic safety and marketing plan for short and long-term programming. We have also set up the Feed the Soul campaign to give back to the community and help those most vulnerable. To learn more, visit our website at www.westmorelandculturaltrust.org.

Thank you for your continued support. Please continue to stay safe and healthy. We can’t wait to come together when this is all over.