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NEWS RELEASE

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WINNERS OF THE 2009 SYMPHONY YOUTH COMPETITION ANNOUNCED SPONSORED BY AUGUSTA SYMPHONY GUILD

The Augusta Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Donald Portnoy, and the **Augusta Symphony Guild** held its annual **Symphony Youth Competition** on **Sunday, January 25 at 1:00 pm** at **Augusta State University Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre**.

Mi El Jang, a freshman at Augusta State University won first place in the 2009 competition for her performance of the first movement of *Piano Concerto No.2 in G Minor* by Camille Saint-Saëns. She received a \$200 award and will perform with the Augusta Symphony at the Sunday, April 26 Family Fun Concert at Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre.

Thomas Newton, a freshman at Lakeside High School, won second place for his performance on marimba. He performed the first movement of Rosauero's *Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra I*. He received a \$100 award and will also be featured in the Family Fun Concert on April 26.

The 2009 Youth Competition was open to all instruments and featured 10 students from the CSRA, ages 13-18, performing on the following instruments: piano, clarinet, marimba, cello, and violin. The Competition requires each competitor to perform a movement from a selection of his/her choice. The work must be a part of the literature for orchestras, as the winner is a featured soloist with the orchestra at the April 26 Family Fun concert highlighting young artists. Judges were Augusta Symphony Music Director Donald Portnoy and Augusta Symphony Assistant Conductor Neil Casey.

The **Augusta Symphony Guild** developed the Symphony Youth Competition in 1994 as a community outreach project. It continues to be the Guild's vision to provide opportunities for young, dedicated musicians to perform with the Augusta Symphony.

For more information about education and outreach programs, contact Jennifer Witcher, Augusta Symphony Director of Education & Community Engagement, at 706.826.4706 or jenniferwitcher@augustasympphony.org. For complete information on The Augusta Symphony, visit the Symphony's website at www.augustasympphony.org. Located on the second floor of the Sacred Heart Cultural Center, the Symphony office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

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