

**SAM HIGGINS OF MILTON, MA RECEIVES HIGHEST
NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION AWARD FOR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CLASSICAL VOICE**

**PUBLIC CAN WATCH HIGGINS' PERFORM
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 8PM, AT YOUNGARTS.ORG**

MILTON, MA (DECEMBER 28, 2020) – Sam Higgins of Milton, MA from Milton High School, has been named a 2021 [National YoungArts Foundation \(YoungArts\)](#) Finalist in Classical Voice, the organization's highest honor. Mr. Higgins has been recognized for his caliber of artistic achievement and joins 659 of the nation's most accomplished artists in the visual, literary, and performing arts. Higgins was selected by an esteemed discipline-specific panel of artists through a rigorous blind adjudication process. YoungArts award winners gain access to one of the most comprehensive programs for artists in the United States in which they will have opportunities for financial, creative and professional development support throughout their entire careers. A complete list of the 2021 winners, all 15–18 years old or in grades 10–12, is available online at youngarts.org/winners.

“YoungArts empowers artists to pursue a life in the arts beginning at the critical time when many are faced with decisions about life after high school and we are thrilled to announce this year's YoungArts award winners. This group of extraordinary artists has reminded us yet again that extraordinary artistry is ageless, and I encourage everyone to get to know these faces and names as we will be seeing them for many years to come,” said Executive Director **Jewel Malone**. “To all of this year's winners, congratulations! This is just the start of YoungArts' commitment to supporting your careers, we look forward to working to with you and supporting your artistic and professional development.”

Mr. Higgins will receive a cash prize up to \$10,000 and the opportunity to learn from leading artists such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Frank Gehry, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Mickalene Thomas. Sam is now also eligible for exclusive creative and professional development support including a wide range of fellowships, residencies and awards; virtual and in-person presentation opportunities in collaboration with major venues nationwide; additional financial support; and access to YoungArts Post, a free, private digital network for YoungArts artists to connect, collaborate and learn about additional opportunities.

As a Finalist, Mr. Higgins will participate in **National YoungArts Week+** in January 2021 featuring virtual classes, workshops and mentorship from leading artists in their fields as well as virtual performances and an exhibition for the public. On January 25th at 8PM, audiences can tune in to see Higgins perform during National YoungArts Week+ Celebration and Voice Performances.

Mr. Higgins remarks “I am so humbled to be invited to participate in a week which provides such high quality training and invites endless possibilities for artistic growth. I admire YoungArts for putting this together despite all the setbacks performers have had for the past nine months, and I truly look forward to being able to make music with my wonderful colleagues again.”

Mr. Higgins is also eligible to be nominated to become a **U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts**, one of the highest honors given high school seniors bestowed by the President of the United States. As the sole nominating agency, every year YoungArts nominates 60 artists to the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. The Commission then selects the 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

As a YoungArts award winner, Mr. Higgins joins a distinguished group of accomplished artists including Daniel Arsham, Terence Blanchard, Camille A. Brown, Viola Davis, Allegra Goodman, Josh Groban, Judith Hill, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Andrew Rannells, Desmond Richardson and Hunter Schafer.

Support

Support for the 2020-21 YoungArts season is provided by *Together* campaign supporters, including Campaign Chairs Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, Jay Franke and David Herro, and Michi and Charles Jigarjian and Lead Sponsors Sandra and Tony Tamer.

Additional support for National YoungArts Foundation programs is provided by Anthropologie; Batchelor Foundation; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; Funding Arts Network; the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, and the Cultural Arts Council; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; Dr. Sidney Stern in loving memory of Florence Stern; and Bruce and Ellie Taub.

ABOUT NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison. YoungArts identifies the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary and performing arts, and provides them with creative and professional development opportunities throughout their careers. youngarts.org

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