



The 2018 Young Masters. Photo: Chris Caselli

## 2018 Young Masters Honored

On April 16, the 2018 class of [Young Masters](#) gathered in Austin. The 15 students spent the afternoon in an orientation session that gave them information about the Young Masters grant they will receive and how to report on it, as well as advice on navigating the next steps of their beginning careers. A representative

from Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts also discussed topics to consider when negotiating contracts. During the afternoon, several Young Masters were presented with resolutions by their state legislators, commemorating their achievements.

In the evening, the [Texas Cultural Trust](#) (TCT) honored the 2018 Young Masters at an awards ceremony and star-studded concert at Austin's ZACH Theatre with honorary chair First Lady Cecilia Abbott and event chairs Ashley Covert, Gerardo Interiano, Maya Smart, and Natasa Valocchi. The evening featured special performances by Dallas Black Dance Theatre and 2016 Texas State Musician Joe Ely; Conspirare and Conspirare Youth Choirs, led by 2013 Texas State

### THE 2018 CLASS OF TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS:

Antonio Ajero, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Nacogdoches, *Music/Piano*  
Noah Avelar, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Corpus Christi, *Music/Percussion*  
Tobi Berman, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Fort Worth, *Musical Theater*  
Riley Canterbury, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dallas, *Dance*  
Joziah German, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dallas, *Dance*  
Elizabeth Heyns, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Lantana, *Visual Arts/Special Effects Makeup*  
Mikayla Johnson, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Floresville, *Theater*  
Megan Lin, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Plano, *Music/Violin*  
Lauren Mathews, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Katy, *Music/Cello*  
Aisha Mpiana, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dallas, *Visual Arts*  
Ava Noble, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dallas, *Dance*  
Isha Parupudi, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Friendswood, *Dance/Indian Classical Dance*  
Ian Stripling Jenson, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Austin, *Music/Violin*  
Leif Tilton, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Austin, *Music/Classical Guitar*  
Lauren Yang, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Sugar Land, *Visual Arts*

Musician Craig Hella Johnson, performed an original composition by Allen Robertson to kick off the event. Past Young Masters award recipients Emma Colwell ('16, musical theater) and Behnam Arzaghi ('10, music) also performed, showing the heights they have reached as artists (so far) since receiving the Young Master designation and grant. Everest Pipkin ('08, visual arts) and San Antonio visual artist Cruz Ortiz discussed the role of the arts and arts education opportunities like Young Masters. TCA sends grateful appreciation to the Texas Cultural Trust for their work on the program and the event.

Young Masters is a grant program that provides exemplary art students in grades 8-11 with the financial help they need to pursue advanced study in the areas of visual arts, literary arts, music, theater, dance, musical theater, and media arts. This year's promising young students come from 11 cities and together display a variety of artistic talents. The fifteen 2018 Young Masters will be awarded grants of \$5,000 per year for two years to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines-before college. This gifted group of artists represents the ninth class of Young Masters. Since the program's inception in 2002, the TCT and TCA have given 328 grants to 154 Young Masters, awarding \$932,500 to aspiring artists from across the state. The program received 315 applications for the November 15, 2017 deadline.

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## Professional Development Webinars: Strategic Marketing, Social Media

If you missed the **Social Media: Cultivating & Retaining your Online Audience** webinar we offered on April 18 with the Blanton Museum's **Lizabel Stella**, good news! All of our new professional development webinars are recorded and [available online](#) for free.



*Lizabel Stella*

Our next live webinar, **Strategic Marketing**, will be offered at 2 PM Central on **June 20**. How can you make the most of your marketing dollars in order to reach your desired audiences? In this presentation, **Brooklyn Barbieri Henson**, Marketing Director for the **Austin Theatre Alliance** (The Paramount and Stateside Theatres), will explore simple actions anyone can take to track marketing efforts internally across all platforms and use that data to reach specific audiences. By tracking your own results from email, digital advertising, print, radio, social media, and more, you can reclaim your marketing power and make confident, informed decisions resulting in maximum ROI (return on investment) for tight nonprofit marketing budgets. [Register now](#) for this webinar.



*Brooklyn Barbieri Henson*

**Brooklyn Barbieri Henson** has been with the Austin Theatre Alliance (Paramount & Stateside Theatres) for 12 years, primarily as the Director of Marketing. She graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University with a double major in Communications and Musical Arts - Voice. She thrives on out-of-the-box promotional ideas, content generation, and the constantly changing digital marketing landscape.

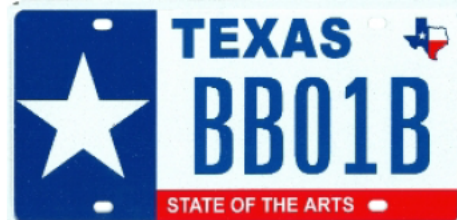
Be warned: Brooklyn will never back down from a pun contest. When outside of the theatres, she enjoys singing alongside her Texas country music singer/songwriter husband and raising her three-year-old next generation superstar!

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## A Unique Gift: Get the Plate that Supports the Arts

Are you trying to find the perfect Mother's Day or graduation gift this month? Perhaps some of the people

you're shopping for are hard to find gifts for? Trust us, we understand! If your loved ones live in Texas, we've got a win-win solution for you. [Get them the TCA State of the Arts license plate](#). The plate looks great on all kinds of vehicles, shows Texas pride and support of the arts, and costs a mere \$30 a year in addition to vehicle registration. \$22 of the \$30 fee goes into TCA's grants budget! TCA is grateful to the many Texas drivers who purchase the State of the Arts license plate, and to the wonderful arts organizations that help promote it to their patrons.



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## Texas Poetry Out Loud Winner at National Competition

Ariel Warren, Texas' 2018 [Poetry Out Loud](#) winner, competed in the national contest in Washington, DC, on April 24. The national competition starts with a day of three semi-finals broken up by region. The top three competitors in each semi-final move on to the next day's event: the national finals. The Poetry Out Loud recitation contest is a national project of the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) and the [Poetry Foundation](#). High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition, mastering public speaking skills, building self-confidence, and learning about their literary heritage along the way. The Texas Commission on the Arts conducts the program at the state level.



*Photo: James Kegley*

Ariel, who is completing her sophomore year at Harmon High School in Lewisville, recited "Domestic Situation" by Ernest Hilbert, "A Celebration of Charis: I. His Excuse for Loving" by Ben Jonson, and "What You Have to Get Over" by Dick Allen. Ultimately, South Carolina's [Janae Claxton](#) took the top prize of \$20,000 and bragging rights as the 2018 Poetry Out Loud national winner. Congratulations to Janae, Ariel, and the other students who represented their states on the national stage.

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[Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge](#) Finalist Fritz Hager introduces his song "If I Lie Here" to the judges and audiences at the Challenge's final competition on Monday, April 23, 2018 at the Greene Space in New York City. Fritz, a senior at Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler, was one of six national finalists in the competition, garnering him \$1,000. Congratulations to Fritz and the other finalists!

Photo: National Endowment for the Arts staff



Texas Commission on the Arts

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