



FROM THE TOP

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For Immediate Release

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**From the Top and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
Award \$1.2 Million in Support for Young Musicians**
Scholarship Program Accepting Applications

(BOSTON, MA)...From the Top, the nation's preeminent showcase for young musicians, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announce more than \$1.2 million in scholarships awarded to outstanding pre-collegiate musicians with financial need.

For five years, From the Top's Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award program has supported high-achieving, low-income young musicians in their efforts to develop as artists and leaders. The scholarship offers exposure through an appearance on From the Top's national radio and television broadcasts as well as up to \$10,000 in financial support, which can be applied to instrument purchases, and tuition and travel expenses for summer music camps. In turn, Jack Kent Cooke Young Artists, who range in age from 8-18 years and are chosen from a competitive pool representing nearly all 50 states and many countries abroad, participate in From the Top's Arts leadership orientation where they are encouraged to give back to their communities by sharing their music with new audiences and receive mentorship as they implement their own service projects.

"Musical training can be expensive," says Dr. Lawrence Kutner, Executive Director, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. "That's why From the Top and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation are looking for exceptionally talented young musicians who could use a bit of financial help to realize their dreams."

For From the Top's Young Artist Award winners and their families the scholarship is a critical investment in their futures. Past Young Artist recipients have gone on to study at the nation's best music conservatories and four-year colleges, and some even have burgeoning professional solo careers.

From the Top also nominates up to five middle school-aged Young Artist Award applicants each year for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Young Scholars Program, a separate scholarship opportunity that offers substantial financial support and academic advising for the duration of a student's education. As of 2010, 70% of From the Top's nominees to the Young Scholars Program have been accepted, compared to a national acceptance rate of only 6%. For more information on the Young Scholars Program, please visit www.jkcf.org.

"I will never forget that From the Top spent so much time and dedication to help me. Being selected as a Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist and Young Scholar is so important as it will affect my future studies in high school, college, and beyond. When I think about the

past few years and look ahead to the future, my heart is full of warmth and gratitude to From the Top. What they have done for me is priceless.” – Anna Ji Eun Lee, 14, violinist from Bayside, New York.

From the Top is currently accepting applications for the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award. Deadlines for the 2010- 2011 season are October 1, 2010; December 1, 2010; and February 1, 2011. Please note that high school seniors must apply by the October 1 deadline. For more information and to download an application, please visit <http://www.fromthetop.org/node/22>

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ABOUT THE JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is a private, independent foundation based in Lansdowne, Virginia established in 2000 by the estate of Jack Kent Cooke to help young people of exceptional promise reach their full potential through education.
www.jackkentcookefoundation.org

ABOUT FROM THE TOP

From the Top celebrates the passion, dedication and personal stories of the nation's outstanding young classical musicians. Through entertaining radio and television broadcasts, online media, and a national tour of live events and outreach programs, these performers inspire the pursuit of excellence, and encourage participation in the arts as an integral part of a vibrant and civil society.

From the Top's training and mentorship programs prepare young musicians to connect with new audiences, serve as positive peer role models, and give back to their communities in many ways.

Learn more at www.fromthetop.org