



FROM THE TOP

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For Immediate Release

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From the Top and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Have Awarded \$1.4 Million in Support for Young Musicians

Scholarship Program Accepting New Applications

(BOSTON, MA)...From the Top, the nation's preeminent showcase for young musicians, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation have awarded more than \$1.4 million in scholarships to outstanding pre-collegiate musicians with financial need and are currently accepting applications for the 2011-12 class.

For six years, From the Top's Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award program has supported high-achieving young musicians with financial need 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 music programs. 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 2011, 60% of From the Top's nominees to the Young Scholars Program have been accepted, compared to a national acceptance rate of less than 5%. For more information on the Young Scholars Program, please visit www.jkcf.org.

"When I was notified of my being a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award, I was literally floored with no words to express my heartfelt gratitude. My grandmother continues to remind me that without this award, there was no absolute way I would be

able to make it to even one of my dream conservatories for auditions, let alone college visits. That all changed with one letter in the mail.” – Marcus Rose, Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist, age 17, violist from Shreveport, Louisiana.

From the Top is currently accepting applications for the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award from talented musicians with financial need. Deadlines for the 2011- 2012 season are October 1, 2011; December 1, 2011; and February 1, 2012. Please note that high school seniors must apply by the October 1st deadline.

For more information and to download an application, please visit www.fromthetop.org.

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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

For the past decade, From the Top has been the preeminent showcase for America’s best young musicians. Through award-winning NPR and PBS programs, online media, a national tour of live events, and education programs, From the Top shares the stories and performances of pre-collegiate musicians with millions each week. Each program provides a compelling and entertaining window into the world of a diverse group of young people, who pursue life with passion, determination, and joy. From the Top’s 2011-12 National Tour is sponsored by U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management.

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.