Winston-Salem Symphony Names 2011 Peter Perret Youth Talent Search Winners

Winston-Salem, NC – The Winston-Salem Symphony has announced the winners of the 2011 Peter Perret Youth Talent Search competition. The winner of the junior division, for students ages eight to 12, is pianist Nicholas Allgeier, age 12, of Raleigh. He is a home-schooled sixth grader and a piano student of Derison Duarte. Taking first place in the senior division for students ages 13 through the senior year of high school is Dustin Wilkes-Kim, 14, a violinist from Winston-Salem who is a 9th grader and student of Sarah Johnson at the UNC School of the Arts (UNCSA).

These two young musicians will perform with the Winston-Salem Symphony at the Side by Side concert to be held March 26, 2011, at 2 p.m. at K.R. Williams Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. Nicholas will play Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue and Dustin will perform the first movement of Sibelius’ Violin Concerto in D minor, op 47.

Other contestants recognized for their outstanding performances were:

Junior Division:
Second Place: Lucas Chen, 10, of Cary, a piano student of Florence Ko.
Third Place: Bethany Brinson, 9, of Holly Springs, who studies piano with Margaret Evans.

Senior Division:
Second Place: Kevin Murphy, 16, of Wake Forest, a violin student of Kevin Lawrence at UNCSA.
Third Place: Cellist Drake Driscoll, 15, of Holly Springs, who studies with Elizabeth Beilman.
The finals of the 2011 competition were held on February 12 in Winston-Salem. Preliminary rounds were held on January 22 in Winston-Salem and January 23 in Raleigh. Each contestant was required to play a 10-minute movement from a concerto suitable for performance with an orchestra. Judges for the Talent Search were Matthew Troy, assistant conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony; Peter Perret, conductor emeritus of the Winston-Salem Symphony; and Dr. Joanne Inkman, a member of the music faculty at Wake Forest University.

The annual Youth Talent Search, named in honor of Peter Perret, was developed to identify North Carolina’s most gifted and talented young musicians. Maestro Perret established the competition as a means of helping develop young talent and as a way of recognizing and supporting the teachers and families of musically-gifted children. Participation in the competition also provides students with information and motivation to continue their musical studies. Many have gone on to become professional musicians, including the winner of the very first Peter Perret Youth Talent Search, who is now a member of the New York Philharmonic.

For more information, visit www.wssymphony.org, or call 336-725-1035, ext. 209.

###