



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2008

Highhill Scholarship Winners Announced

MIDLAND - The Midland Symphony League of Midland Center for the Arts will recognize the two recipients of the 2008 Clara Highhill Memorial Scholarship at its annual meeting at 10 am on May 16, 2008 in the Midland Center for the Arts Garden Room. The winners, Ian Von Wald and Bethany Donat, are both students at Midland High School; they were awarded a combined \$1,200 in scholarship funds to be applied to further their studies in music.

The Clara Highhill Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the memory of a longtime Symphony League volunteer. Eligible students must be in the 10th or 11th grade and either a resident of Midland County or studying with a Midland County teacher. In addition to an application form, students submit recommendations from both school and private music teachers and an audition recording. The selection process also included review of both recorded and live audition performances.

Ian Von Wald: \$700 Winner

Ian is the son of Grant and Robin Von Wald and studies violin privately with Michael Avsharian in Ann Arbor, MI. He has been a member of the Sand Ridge string quartet for 4 years; concertmaster of MHS Symphony Orchestra; member of MHS Meistersingers; has studied piano with Dorothea Canfield for 10 years; and studies with the Midland Suzuki Education Program under the direction of Lois Palen. Ian will be using his scholarship award to attend Interlochen's two week All-state music program this summer.

Bethany Donat: \$500 Winner

Bethany is the daughter of Kim and Deb Donat and plays flute in the Midland High School Symphonic Band and Orchestra, performs with the flute choir, has participated in Solo & Ensemble, and began teaching flute lessons this past year. Bethany studies flute with Wendy Hohmeyer and plans to use her scholarship to continue private lessons. After high school, Bethany plans to major in communications or business at an undecided college.

The Midland Symphony Orchestra (MSO) offers a six-concert season featuring renowned guest artists. Providing mid-Michigan with continuous symphonic music since 1936, the MSO also sponsors educational opportunities through its touring ensembles in the schools, Community Orchestra, chamber concerts, Tunes for Tots, a summer outdoor event, prelude lectures, scholarships, music appreciation programs and guest artist master classes and residencies.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a

partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

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