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Contact: Vera Wilson
215-735-6999, Astral@AstralArtists.org



**ASTRAL ARTISTS ANNOUNCES
2010 NATIONAL AUDITIONS WINNERS**

Candidates from across the United States vying for a place on Astral Artists' prestigious roster underwent a rigorous application process to earn a live audition for Astral. After hearing selected applicants during three days of auditions in January 2010, the panel, consisting of professional musicians at the top of their respective fields, recommended six artists for placement on Astral's current roster of exceptional emerging classical musicians.

Astral is proud to announce its **six 2010 National Auditions Winners**:

- **Flutist JULIETTA CURENTON** holds degrees from The Juilliard School and The Royal Northern College of Music of Manchester, England. She is also currently a fellow of The Academy – A Program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and The Weill Music Institute.
- **Pianist SARA DANESHPOUR** is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Second Prize winner of the 2007 William Kapell International Piano Competition.
- **Flutist ANGEL HSIAO** is a graduate of the Conservatoire Royal de Musique in Brussels and is currently a doctoral candidate at SUNY Stony Brook. She was the First Prize winner of the 2008 New York Flute Club Young Artist Competition.
- **The JASPER STRING QUARTET** won the Silver Medal at the 2008 and 2009 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, and is currently the graduate quartet-in-residence at the Yale School of Music.
- **Pianist ANDREA LAM** holds degrees from the Yale School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music. She was a Semifinalist in the 2009 Van Cliburn Competition.
- **Violinist KRISTIN LEE** is pursuing a Master of Music degree at The Juilliard School. She is also a member of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society II.

ASTRAL ARTISTS, Mission Statement

To discover the most promising classical musicians residing in the United States, assist their early professional career development, and present their world-class artistry to the community through concerts and outreach programs.

ABOUT ASTRAL

Since its founding in 1992, Astral Artists has played a unique and vital role in the development of the nation's most gifted young musicians. A Philadelphia-based non-profit organization, Astral serves as a 'career bridge' for promising young artists, who often graduate from conservatories superbly trained as musicians but without the business and professional skills needed to face the challenges of establishing a classical music career. Astral provides invaluable career development guidance; Philadelphia and New York City debuts; collaborations with world-renowned musicians; auditions for major presenters, managers, and conductors; outreach training; and world premières of new compositions frequently written for Astral musicians and commissioned by Astral – **all at no cost to the artist.**

Astral selects its artists from a nationwide pool of applicants at annual auditions and presents these promising young musicians in concert series, outreach programs, and musicales in private homes. Astral's highly regarded Philadelphia Concert Series offers an exciting range of recitals, chamber music, and orchestral concerts with Symphony in C. Other series in and around Philadelphia feature Astral artists in performances at universities, museums, and schools. Each year Astral reaches approximately 10,000 community members through concerts and extensive outreach programming in schools and adult care facilities.

For more information about Astral, please call 215-735-6999
or visit AstralArtists.org

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