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MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Monmouth Civic Chorus announced the winners of its annual vocal scholarships for New Jersey high school seniors. The awards will be presented at the Chorus's performance of the new musical *Golden Gate* on May 31 at 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. at the Middletown Arts Center, 36 Church Street, Middletown.

The First Place award of \$1500 will be given to Jong Woo Huh of Ridgefield. Known as Sammy, he has sung in the All-Eastern Mixed Choir, All-State Honors Choir, North Jersey Regional Honors Choir and Bergen County Honors Choir, and has been ranked Number 1 Tenor in the county, region and state. He attended the Governor's School for the Arts, and received the Governor's Award in Arts Education. Sammy serves as Student Council President at Ridgefield Memorial High School, where he performs in the Marching Band and four choirs while achieving high grades in numerous Advanced Placement and Honors courses. He plans to attend the Juilliard School of Music as a Voice major.

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The Second Place award of \$1000 will be given to Lori Tishfield of Freehold. She has received three Count Basie Theatre Awards and two Algonquin Arts Theatre Rising Star awards. She attended the Governor's School of the Arts, and has trained at the Academy of Dance Arts, Two River Theater and Monmouth Conservatory of Music. Lori attends Freehold High School and plans to major in Musical Theater at Boston Conservatory.

The Third Place award of \$200 will be given to Kelsey Robertson of Point Pleasant Boro. Kelsey has received awards from the Shore Music Educators Association and the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and attended Musical Theater Camp at Westminster Choir College and the Young Artist Vocal Program at Boston University Tanglewood Institute. She attends Point Pleasant Boro High School and plans to attend Oberlin Conservatory.

Christian Krenek of Toms River and F. Joseph Mendoza of Atlantic Highlands will receive Honorable Mention. Christian attends Monsignor Donovan High School, where he is Show Choir President/Student Director and a member of three other choirs, as well as a Student Ambassador, Peer Tutor, President of the Live Poets Society, and Head Writer for MDTV. While his college choice is still undecided, he has taken four Advanced Placement courses and received the Highest Average Award in English and Religion.

Joseph attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Concordia Vocal Academy, and American Boychoir School, and has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony. He is also active as a Boy Scout, Police and Fire Department Explorer, Navesink River Rowing Club member, lifeguard and chef. He attends Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School and plans to attend either Eastman School of Music or Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Audition judges were Mark Shapiro, Artistic Director and Conductor, Monmouth Civic Chorus; Alice Berman, past Executive Director, Monmouth Conservatory of Music; Neil Brown, Director of Music Ministries, United Methodist Church of Red Bank; and Charles Harris, Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church of Red Bank. Over more than 20 years, the Monmouth Civic Chorus has awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarships to New Jersey high school seniors of outstanding vocal promise. For more information or to donate to the scholarship fund, call 732-933-9333 or visit www.monmouthcivicchorus.org.

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