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Secrest named two-time finalist at Trinity Presents, performs April 6



By Jessica Stewart

March 27, 2014

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. -- Senior Ouachita Baptist University student Caitlin Secrest, a vocal performance major from Arkadelphia, Ark., has been named a finalist in the Trinity Presents Collegiate Performance Showcase. She will perform at the showcase at Trinity United Methodist Church in Little Rock, on Sunday, April 6, at 6 p.m. This is the second consecutive year Secrest was named a finalist.

"It is purely an honor to be chosen to compete in the finals of the Trinity Presents Collegiate Showcase," Secrest said. "It is a blast to get to know the other competitors while sharing the blessing of music with a diverse audience." Secrest also earned honorable mentions in the contest in 2011 and 2012. She will perform with her accompanist, Phyllis Walker, in the 2013 showcase.

"It is a tremendous honor to be chosen once for the final showcase; to be afforded the opportunity twice as an undergraduate student is truly a blessing," said Dr. Jon Secrest, professor of music and coordinator of Ouachita's vocal studies program.

The showcase is the annual finale of the Trinity Presents Performance Series, a program of Trinity United Methodist Church to extend their reach beyond its local congregation by presenting musical performances to central Arkansas. Undergraduate and graduate students from universities across the state audition to perform in the competitive showcase.

Ouachita junior Chad Burris, a musical theatre major from Van Buren, Ark., was named a runner-up in the competition. In previous years, only finalists and honorable mentions were named; the runner-up category is new this year. Yuta Nishimura from Arkansas State University also received this honor.

“The selection committee struggled to narrow our selection down to only five finalists,” explained Robert Hughes, showcase coordinator. “The talent of the students chosen as runners-up was of such high caliber that if we had more positions the runners-up would have been selected as finalists.”

“It’s such a promising moment in your college career when you have been working hard on your craft to have someone acknowledge it,” Burris said. “I always take moments like these to remind myself that I am on track and the training I am receiving here is invaluable.”

Other finalist who will perform in the showcase include: Ting-Huan Chang from the University of Central Arkansas, on piano; Adonias Finch from Arkansas State University, on trumpet; Madeleine Hogue from the University of Arkansas, on flute; and Matthew Walker, counter tenor, from Henderson State University.

For more information on the showcase, contact Trinity United Methodist Church at (501) 666-2813. For more information about Ouachita’s vocal studies program, contact Dr. Jon Secrest at secrestj@obu.edu or (870) 245-5134.