

# Carl Johanson nominated for White House honor

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What do the White House, ballet slippers, a saxophone and Carl Johanson have in common? They all connect to youngARTS™ and their exclusive relationship with the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Carl Johanson, who lives in Dresden, a youngARTS finalist, has just been nominated as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

youngARTS is the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) and is the sole nominating agency for this division of the U.S. Department of Education and the Presidential Scholars in the Arts Program. NFAA has nominated 60 youngARTS finalists for consideration by the Commission on Presidential Scholars. From the complete list of nominees, approximately 20 of these students will go on to receive this incredible recognition: they will be honored at the White House as well as show their artwork at the Smithsonian Institution and perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in June of 2009.

Christina DePaul, the President and CEO of youngARTS says, "We are so proud of all our exceptionally talented students and I am thrilled to witness their success. This is just the beginning for these students; they have proven without a doubt that they are the best of the best in the nation."

President Obama is expected to be present at the ceremony to honor all the Presidential Scholars, including the Presidential Scholars in the Arts. "In these dark, challenging economic times it is great to see the light from these students who will be the ones to lead us to a brighter future," adds

DePaul.

youngARTS celebrates and rewards exceptional student artists from across the U.S. in each of nine artistic fields: cinematic arts, dance, jazz, classical music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing.

Selected from thousands of applicants across nine disciplines, 140 of the "best of the best" won the right to travel to Miami this year for youngARTS Week, an all-expense-paid gathering that included master classes, workshops, readings, exhibitions and performances. It was not a vacation for these students; they were being adjudicated the entire time and then the 60 nominees were selected and presented to the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Inclusion in the Presidential Scholars Program, now in its 45th year, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Each year 141 Scholars, including up to 20 Scholars in the Arts, are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

This year, over 3,000 students are eligible for the program's academic component, based on outstanding scores on the SAT or ACT exam. Of these, 121 will be selected as Presidential Scholars.

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