Friends of Music Annual Student Awards

Friends of Music Excellence in Music Senior Award: Laurie Ann Taylor (Performance track, voice)

Laurie Ann Taylor, mezzo-soprano, is originally from Carrollton, Georgia and majors in music (voice) with minors in religion and Italian studies. She studies with Prof. Bradley Howard, who has inspired and prepared her to pursue a master of music degree in voice performance and opera next fall. Laurie Ann loves performing with Emory’s choral ensembles and the Stageworks opera scenes workshop, and she is extremely grateful for the opportunities and warm, encouraging atmosphere that Emory and its faculty have provided throughout her undergraduate years.

Laurie Ann was the winner of the Emory Music Department Concerto Competition in 2013. You may see her Concerto Competition performance here.

Friends of Music Excellence in Music Junior Award: Naomi Newton (Performance track, voice)

Naomi Newton, soprano, is a junior from New Jersey. A biology & vocal performance double-major, she plans to go to medical school & specialize in pediatrics (sub-specialty to be determined). She has been a member of school & church choirs for eighteen years, & has participated in many plays & musicals. In high school, she sang with the New Jersey Youth Chorus & served as the president of the drama club, for which she wrote & directed several plays. Performance highlights include choral performances at Carnegie Hall, tours of Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, & Ireland with the New Jersey Youth Chorus, & performances in Rome & Assisi with her high school choir. She currently sings with the Emory Concert Choir.

Naomi was the 2014 recipient of Emory’s Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Robert Shaw Memorial Outstanding Singer Award. She also serves as a member of the Music Student Advisory Board, a recently revived departmental organization that works to enhance the music-making experience at Emory by serving as a liaison between students and faculty. Naomi is blessed to be working with such talented peers & to be learning from truly amazing faculty. She is grateful for the opportunity to pursue music at Emory, and hopes to continue singing for the rest of her life. Naomi will be working on her honors project over the summer.
**From the Heart Award: Ryan Sutherland (Performance track, saxophone; also engages in research)**

Ryan Sutherland is a Junior in the College of Arts and Sciences from St. Petersburg, FL, majoring in Biology and Music Performance. He has participated in a wide variety of musical offerings at Emory, serving as the 1st Chair Tenor Saxophonist in the Emory Wind Ensemble and as a member of the Emory Saxophone Quartet, Concert Choir, University Chorus, Tango Ensemble, Brazilian Samba Percussion Ensemble, and the Gamelan Ensemble. He is a member of the Friends of Music and the Music Student Advisory Board, and serves as the Ensemble Manager and Music Librarian for the Emory Wind Ensemble. He recently was awarded the Friends of Music Student Research Grant to attend the Society for Ethnomusicology’s 2014 national conference in Pittsburgh, PA, and received the Emory Undergraduate Research Award in 2014 from the Robert W. Woodruff Library for a paper entitled "Exoticism and Musical Appropriation: The Javanese Gamelan in Debussy’s *Pagodes* (1903) and Russian Folk Music in Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps* (1913)." He intends to further explore his interest in ethnomusicological research by visiting Indonesia this summer to assist him in writing an honors thesis focusing on the influence of the Indonesian Gamelan on the stylistic development of contemporary Western music. Ryan is a Norman C. and Henry J. Miller Dean's Achievement Scholar in the Emory Scholars Program and is a recipient of the Boykin Scholarship for private music instruction.

*From the Heart Award has been an award given by Wayne and Janie Alexander in honor of Dr. Louise Cording "Best communicates with passion the emotional language of music/song to his/her listeners from his/her heart," The award is being presented for the years 2012-16.*