

For immediate release. Contact: Jane Polett 222-2856

## Headline: QSO Young Artists Announced

The Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association has announced that the winners of its 54th Annual Young Artists Competition are Kelsey Drea, piano, and Emily Hart, oboe. These high school students will perform as soloists during the QSO Young Artists Concert on February 15, 2009 at 3:00 PM in the QJHS Morrison Theater. The competition, open to area 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, was held on December 13, 2008.

Kelsey Drea, daughter of John and Brenda Drea of Macomb, is a senior at Macomb High School. She has been playing piano for 11 years, and studies with Dr. Jenny Perron of WIU. Kelsey plays percussion in the MHS wind symphony and marching band, and is involved with National Honor Society, math team, soccer, intramural basketball, one act plays and SADD. She is class treasurer for the MHS senior class. She is a member of the Macomb Municipal Band, her church youth group, and running club. Kelsey will be a returning member of the Illinois All-State Honors band this winter.

Emily Hart is a senior at Quincy High School, and is a member of the National Honor Society and the QHS varsity basketball team. She has been playing the oboe for nine years and has been a student of Marianne Peters, Louis Margaglione, and WIU Professor Michael Ericson. Last summer she traveled to Europe with the Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra, and plans to return again this year as principal oboe. She is a member of the QHS concert band, the QU Concert Band, and the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra. She is an active member of the youth group at First Union Congregational Church in Quincy. She is the daughter of Connie Hook and Rodney Hart.

The annual Young Artists Competition of the QSOA gives outstanding high school musicians the opportunity to perform as a concert soloist, accompanied by a symphony orchestra. Such a performance can be a springboard for a young person to choose a lifelong commitment to the arts. The Young Artists Concert rewards excellence in musicianship and enriches not just the performer, but also the audience and orchestra members. The competition is held each fall, and is open to current 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders who attend school within a 70 mile radius of Quincy. Over 125 young musicians have performed as Young Artists over the 60-year history of the Quincy Symphony Orchestra.