

12/15/09

For immediate release. Contact: Jane Polett 222-2856

## Headline: Symphony Announces Competition Winners

The Quincy Symphony Orchestra has announced the winners of its 55th Annual Young Artists Competition: John Reinhardt, III, alto saxophone, and Xavier Zahnle, piano. These high school students will perform as soloists during the QSO's Young Artists Concert on February 14, 2010. The competition, open to area 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, was held on December 12, 2009 at the First Congregational Church in Quincy.

John Reinhardt, III, a senior at Quincy High School, will perform Paul Creston's Sonata, Op. 19 for Saxophone and orchestra. He has been studying saxophone for 8 years, and studies privately with Leslie Fonza of Quincy. He has also studied with Christine Damm. John has been a member of the IMEA All-District Concert and Jazz Bands and the IMEA All-State Honors Band. He is a member of the QHS Marching, Concert, Jazz, and Show Choir bands, and has been a member of the QHS pit orchestra for musicals. John is also a proficient pianist, with a piano studio of 13 students of his own. Outside of school, John participates in the music ministry at Madison Park Christian Church. In his free time, he enjoys riding his dirt bike. John is the son of Paula and J.D. Reinhardt of Quincy.

Xavier Zahnle is a junior at Macomb High School, and has studied piano for 11 years with Jenny Perron. He will perform the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 2. Xavier is also a bassoonist studying with Dr. Doug Huff, and a percussionist as well. He has participated in IMEA District Festivals and Solo & Ensemble contests since 2006, and was selected for the IMEA All-State band on bassoon. He has attended WIU Band Camps and ISYM Summer camps since 2005. In 2008 he studied marching percussion at the Music for All Summer Symposium in Normal, IL. He is a member of the Macomb High Wind Symphony and has performed with the Monmouth Civic Orchestra. Xavier enjoys running, and was named MVP of the MHS Cross-country team last year. He is vice-president of both the MHS Scholastic Bowl team and the Science club. He enjoys learning, and when asked, can't pick a favorite school subject. Xavier is the son of Kenneth and Gayle Zahnle of Macomb, IL.

The purpose of the competition is to give 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 annual Young

Artists Concert, now in its 55<sup>th</sup> year, rewards excellence in musicianship and enriches not just the performer, but also the audience and orchestra members. Call the symphony office 222-2856 or visit [www.qsoa.org](http://www.qsoa.org) for more details on the Feb. 14 performance and the competition.