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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Concerto Competition for Young Musicians Culminates in Concerto Concert

Collegedale, Tenn.-- The hard work of eight students will pay off this weekend as they bring their best performances to Southern Adventist University's Symphony Orchestra Concerto Concert.

The concert, scheduled for Sunday, January 27 at 4 p.m. at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists, will feature the winning soloists of the School of Music's Concerto Competition, accompanied by Southern's Symphony Orchestra. The event is free and open to the public.

The winners included Breanna Thornton, junior music performance major, and Jonathan Harper, senior music major, who were selected from 19 finalists that auditioned for the School of Music's 23rd Concerto Competition. Students grade 8 through undergraduate college level from the tri-state region competed for the opportunity to play a movement of a piece with the Symphony Orchestra. Five judges, including Laurie Minner, Ken Parsons and Scott Ball from the School of Music, graded students on things such as rhythm, interpretation, accuracy and stage presence.

"We looked for students who can really perform and bring all aspects of performance together," Minner said.

For many of the winners, playing a solo with a full orchestra accompanying them is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as well as a learning and enhancement experience.

"The chance to prepare a piece to that level of performance in front of judges really pushes them and brings them to the next step in their music preparation," Minner said.

The Concerto Competition was started in 1990 by Orlo Gilbert, former professor at the School of Music, who dedicated 30 years of his life to improving the music program

through the creation of the Symphony Orchestra and the Concerto Competition. Since then, dozens of talented musicians have had the unforgettable experience of performing their favorite pieces with an orchestra.

Jonathan Harper, 21, has studied piano since age eight and is a senior music major. He will be performing Prokofiev, *Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor*, op.16, Allegro tempestoso.

Breanna Thornton, 19, began studied violin at age four. She is a sophomore music performance major and two-time winner of the Concerto Competition. She will be performing Dvorak, *Violin Concerto in A minor*, op.53, Finale: Allegro giocoso ma non troppo.

Southern Adventist University was established in 1892 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a private, co-educational institution located in Collegedale, Tennessee. Southern has an estimated enrollment of 3,300 students and offers master's, baccalaureate and associate degrees, and one-year certificates.

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