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NEWS RELEASE

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5th Annual Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition names 4 winners

(SANTA ROSA, CA)— On Saturday, November 7, a record number of 15 contestants participated in the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra's Concerto Competition. The young musicians, who ranged in age from 12 to 18, each appeared before a 3-judge panel consisting of SRS Director of Education Katey Pearson, Arlene Burney, band director at Casa Grande High School, and Nick Xenelis, conductor of the Santa Rosa Chamber Orchestra.. Instruments represented in the competition were flute, tuba, violin, viola, cello, oboe, bassoon and French horn.

The four winners, not ranked in any order, are. 16-year-old Elizabeth Castro-Abrams of Novato, who played the first movement of Bach's Concerto for Violin; 17-year-old Michael Murrin of Santa Rosa who played the Concerto for Bass Tuba by Vaughan Williams; 16-year-old Kirsten Skabelund of Santa Rosa who played Mendelssohn's violin concerto movement one; and Marissa Zieminski, a 16-year-old from Santa Rosa, who played the Concertino for Flute and Orchestra by Chaminade. For flautist Zieminski, it was the second consecutive year as a winner in this competition.

The Concerto Competition winners will be featured as soloists in Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra concerts throughout the 2009-10 season.

—A photo of the winners is available upon request—

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