

2016 Cresap Foundation Scholarship Recipients



Garrett Chase of Miami, OK – OSAI Chorus Student



Fiona Stout of Miami, OK - OSAI Orchestra Student

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Miami Students Study at Arts Institute All Students Receive Full Scholarships

LONE WOLF, Okla., -- Years of hard work and dedication have paid off for 2 Miami students, who have earned spots at the prestigious Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain (OSAI), held June 11 – 26, now celebrating its 40th year. The talented students are studying with nationally renowned faculty artists from across the U.S. In conjunction with acceptance, all students receive full scholarships to attend the program.

Garrett Chase, studying chorus at OSAI, and Fiona Stout, studying orchestra, are students at Miami High School.

“The work of the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute has been part of Oklahoma’s cultural landscape for four decades,” said Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. “It may be even more critical than ever in a year like 2016, when a difficult budget environment has eliminated fine arts classes in many schools around the state. Art enriches life, and programs like OSAI are an inspiration to Oklahoma young people and their families.”

At OSAI, Oklahoma high school students spend at least six hours a day studying one of nine artistic disciplines in the literary, visual, and performing arts. In the evenings, they attend a variety of performances, lectures, and demonstrations that give them an appreciation of the arts outside of their chosen discipline. Students from different

disciplines and backgrounds study, reside, and eat meals together. With so many highly motivated and gifted students working together in close quarters, lifelong friendships and career-enhancing collaborations often develop.

“Last summer, OSAI was so crucial in helping me further develop my technical and musical skills on the French horn and in orchestral performance,” said Stout, an OSAI orchestra student. “My experience of two weeks of studying with the horn instructor and rehearsing and performing under the direction of the orchestra conductor helped me prepare to successfully audition for a position at a music conservatory for college.”

Since its inception, many famous artists have taught at the program. Former faculty artists include recipients of the Academy, Emmy, Grammy, and Tony Awards. This year’s Institute boasts a stellar faculty, including presidential inaugural poet Richard Blanco and internationally renowned photographer Kurt Markus. Additionally, OSAI alumnus Timothy Long has returned to conduct the 2016 Institute Orchestra.

Quartz Mountain Nature Park has been the home of Institute programs since its second year in 1978. The secluded locale makes it an ideal location for arts immersion. Set between Lake Altus-Lugert and the rocky Quartz Mountains, the Arts & Conference Center boasts a 700-seat performing arts center, versatile studio pavilions, and more. Students and faculty draw inspiration from the beautiful natural setting.

Students were selected to attend OSAI through competitive statewide auditions, with nearly 1,000 students auditioning for just 273 spots. Miami students’ scholarships are provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Cresap Family Foundation. Additional program support is provided by the Oklahoma Arts Council, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation, Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Zarrow Foundations, and SONIC, America’s Drive-In.

OSAI culminates in ONSTAGE Weekend, Fri., June 24 and Sat., June 25. The weekend consists of concerts, performances, film screenings, and gallery exhibitions where all OSAI students have a chance to present their work. All ONSTAGE events are free and open to the public, and a performance schedule is available at oaiquartz.org or 405.605.7500.

The Oklahoma Arts Institute is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1977, with a mission to provide exceptional multidisciplinary arts experiences that develop individual talent and inspire a lifelong passion for the arts. In addition to the Summer Arts Institute, OAI administers a series of continuing education workshops for adults every fall.

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Editor's Note: We have professional digital photographs of your students that can be downloaded here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0ulqk7xqg8mhu4d/AACK9nJl-zxdorwPv8MdeHd8a?dl=0> (All students are listed by "last name_first initial." If you have trouble finding your students, please let me know.)

We are also happy to facilitate telephone or in-person interviews with any OSAI student. Site visits are encouraged. Please contact Anne Peters at apeters@oaiquartz.org if you are interested. Thanks!