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Moraga Musician and Composer Honored with National YoungArts Foundation Merit Award

Submitted by Dejha Carrington



Lauren Grace Bare Photo provided

Lauren Grace Bare of Moraga, who attends Valley View Charter Prep High School, has been named a 2016 National YoungArts Foundation Merit Winner in Music Instrumental/Composition. Selected out of more than 12,000 applications - the largest number to date - Bare has been recognized for her outstanding work and accomplishments and joins 819 young artists from 42 states across the literary, visual, design and performing arts who are being presented with this year's honor. Winners receive cash awards of up to \$10,000, validation by renowned mentors, opportunities to participate in YoungArts programs, a strong professional network, and guidance in taking important steps toward achieving their goals.

"On behalf of everyone at YoungArts, I want to congratulate all of our winners and look forward to welcoming the finalists to our campus in January," stated Lisa Leone, Vice President of

Artistic Programs for YoungArts.

Each YoungArts Winner is designated as a Finalist, Honorable Mention or Merit Winner through a blind adjudication process by an independent panel of highly accomplished artists. Some winners are awarded for excellence in multiple disciplines. All winners are eligible to participate in YoungArts' regional programs, including YoungArts Los Angeles (Feb. 16-21), YoungArts Miami (March 8-13), and YoungArts New York (April 12-17), space permitting.

YoungArts Winners become part of the organization's expansive alumni network of leading professionals, including visual artists Doug Aitken (1986 Winner in Visual Arts) and Daniel Arsham (1999 Winner in Visual Arts); musicians Conrad Tao (2011 Winner in Music and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and Jennifer Koh (1994 Winner in Music and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts); filmmaker Doug Blush (1984 Winner in Cinematic Arts); recording artists Josh Groban (1999 Winner in Theater) and Chris Young (2003 Winner in Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts); writers Jenji Kohan (1987 Winner in Writing) and Sam Lipsyte (1986 Winner in Writing and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts); actors Viola Davis (1983 Winner in Theater), Andrew Rannells (1997 Winner in Theater) and Kerry Washington (1994 Winner in Theater); renowned choreographer Desmond Richardson (1986 Winner in Modern Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts); and 2015 So You Think You Can Dance winner Gaby Diaz (2014 Winner in Dance).

YoungArts supports its alumni by providing opportunities to participate in the organization's programming nationwide, including its annual YoungArts Awareness Day, a national advocacy campaign that promotes the arts as a rewarding and viable career path. The organization also seeks to support the artistry of its alumni and their projects throughout their careers; builds a community of YoungArts winners across generations; and establishes connections with partner institutions across the country, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, American Ballet Theater and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, [facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation) or twitter.com/YoungArts.

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