



STUNNING LINEUP OF CONTESTANTS ANNOUNCED FOR 24TH AMERICAN TRADITIONS VOCAL COMPETITION

SAVANNAH, GA – November 3, 2016 Today, the 28 quarter finalists have been announced for the 24th annual American Traditions Vocal Competition (ATVC) which is slated to run Feb. 20-24, 2017.

Organizers say that it will be an exceptional year as the number of applications increased 37% year on year and the 28 successful contestants are already winners who will be awarded cash prizes. These talented singers have achieved great success amongst tough competition by passing the ATVC's stringent application process by recording and submitting three songs from different genres of American music.

Local music lovers will be thrilled to see that Savannah based Stephen Dobson has once again been selected as a quarter finalist. In 2015 Dobson was awarded the silver medal and his return is an example of the trend for previous contestants to once again apply for this prestigious competition and significant prize fund. In total, ten singers who have competed in previous years have once again made the shortlist to return to the competition next February including finalists from 2016 – Aundi Marie Moore who won the bronze medal and Alexis Cole who won fifth place.

The 28 successful applicants for 2017 who will appear in the quarter finals of the 24th annual ATVC are (in alphabetical order):

Jessica Baldwin

Jessica Ann Best

Melissa Brobeck

Alexis Cole

Grace Field

Katie Dixon

Stephen Dobson

Jonathan Estabrooks

Brian Giebler

Kristin Gornstein

Jocelyn Hansen

Gillian Hassert

Katherine Henly

Kisma Jordan

Amy Justman

Aundi Marie Moore

Christia Nastasi

Brittany Proia

Megan Schubert

Bradley Smoak

Brad Standley

Nikki Switzer

Dara Tucker

Brenda Marie Turner

Karen Vincent

Jacob Keith Watson

Missy Wise

Jordan Wolfe

The ATVC showcases contestants performing American Music from a wide range of distinct genres - ranging from jazz to country to opera and the tunes of Johnny Mercer and more - which must have been composed by an American Composer (either natural born or naturalized American citizens). Contestants choose nine songs, each from a different genre - selecting in advance, their three programs of three songs each, to be performed at each stage of the ATVC.

Competition is fierce and with a prize fund of over \$44,000 including the Gold medal award with a prize of \$12,000, the ATVC attracts a high calibre of singers.

President of the ATVC, Danny Cohen commented “We are thrilled with the exceptional quality and quantity of applications for the 2017 ATVC – our judges had a tough job selecting only 28 quarter finalists from the many excellent candidates. The fact that over a third of these have reapplied after competing in previous years is especially pleasing and is a tribute to the quality and prestige of the competition as well as our famous Southern hospitality. Again this year we are inviting friends of the ATVC to sponsor a quarter finalist by contributing \$300 towards their costs for the year. This will increase the level of excitement and connections between our contestants and the Savannah audiences. This sponsorship campaign will be launched at our Johnny Mercer fundraiser on November 18 and via our website. We also have some special ticket packages available for music lovers which make ideal holiday gifts.”

To buy tickets or for more information, please visit www.americantraditionscompetition.com or call the Savannah Theatre Box Office on (912) 233-7764

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Editor's Notes

The American Traditions Vocal Competition (ATVC) was established as a world renowned arts institution based in Savannah, Georgia to provide a forum for showcasing tomorrow's vocal talents and superstars; and to celebrate the diverse repertoire of standard, classic American music. Evolving from Savannah Onstage which was established in 1992 and was the forerunner of the Savannah Music Festival, the ATVC was created as a vocal competition for classic American music. In 2011, the ATVC became an independent non-profit organization.