



TRIUMPHANT FINALE AS WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2016 AMERICAN TRADITIONS COMPETITION

SAVANNAH, GA –10:30PM - February 25, 2016 Tonight, the American Traditions Competition (ATC) ended a fabulous week of American song with the five finalists enjoying standing ovations from the full house at the Historic Savannah Theatre on Bull Street.

The winners were announced after a nail biting intermission when the judges retired to make their final selections from among the five talented artists who had progressed through nine songs each from different genres through the quarter and semi-finals earlier this week.

The Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation Gold Medal Award worth \$12,000 and The Savannah Philharmonic contract, was awarded to Michael Maliakel who won over the audience and judges with his winning performance of Cry Me A River, Stay in My Arms and Deli.

Other awards presented included:

- The Patricia & Heyward Gignilliat Silver Medal Award with \$6,000 prize money was awarded to Rebecca Odorisio.
- The Enmark Stations Inc. Bronze Medal Award with \$3,000 prize money was awarded to Aundi Marie Moore.
- Fourth place medal was sponsored by South State Wealth and awarded to Jamison Scott.
- Fifth place medal sponsored by Savannah Friends of Music was awarded to Alexis Cole.
- The \$750 Johnny Mercer Award, sponsored by The Friends of Johnny Mercer, Inc & Armstrong State University, for the best song performed from Johnny Mercer's repertoire was awarded to Rebecca Odorisio with her performance of 'Any Place I Hang My Hat is Home.
- The \$500 Ben Tucker Jazz Award to honor this legendary Savannah musician who was an original ATC Board member was awarded to Rebecca Odorisio for her performance of 'Sophisticated Lady'.

- The Richard Chambless People's Choice Award of \$500 for the audience's favorite singer from the semi-finals who was not chosen to move forward as one of the final five was presented to Rachel Sparrow.
- Earlier in the week the quarter finals' People's Choice Award was presented to Adam Cannedy.

Vale Rideout, Artistic Consultant for the ATC said "This year has exceeded all expectations, with the consistently high level of talent, and variety of style that our contestants have shown. The audiences have thrilled at each note, phrase and melodic spin. It has been an honor and privilege to work with our dedicated board, our three judges, pianists and our brave and talented contestants".

For more information, please visit www.americantraditionscompetition.com

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Editor's Notes

The American Traditions Competition (ATC) 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 ATC was created as a vocal competition for classic American music. In 2011, the ATC became an independent non-profit organization.