



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Bursary recipient Matthew Euwes performs at the York Region Media Group's Celebration of the Arts.

Award-winning violinist is teacher, performer

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The aptly named Celebration of the Arts, an annual showcase for York Region's talented young performers, launched its 13th gala at the Newmarket Theatre with bursary recipients demonstrating why they earned them.

Since the millennium, the event has awarded more than 263 bursaries valued at more than \$363,000.

A York Region Media Group initiative, the celebration offers youth not only financial support, but also the recognition that the arts are a worthy pursuit and the confidence to continue to practice and perform. Metroland Media Group, Central Division, vice president and publisher Ian Proudfoot said.

And perform they did. The evening featured stellar music, theatre and dance by pre-teens, teenagers and young adults, 30 in total.

Produced by theatre impresario Sheryl Thomas with broadcaster Sheila Clark as the ebullient master of ceremonies, the evening shone the limelight on our aspiring entertainers.

Professional guest vocalist Dan-

iel Panetta enthralled the audience with his masterful fusion of rock, jazz and opera.

Mr. Panetta, a former Celebration of the Arts bursary winner, said the funds assisted with his post secondary education.

'We believe the arts are integral to a healthy society.'

"The COA experience has enabled me to gain the confidence and experience to perform in front of tens of thousands of audience members throughout North America and Europe," he said. "Passions are found here, careers are started here, friends are made here and art is created here. That is the COA."

The celebration promotes an essential element in our communities, Mr. Proudfoot said.

"We believe the arts are integral to a healthy society. The arts connect, challenge, educate and entertain us. They encourage creativity, critical thinking and confidence in

our youth and contribute to local, provincial and national economies."

Matthew Euwes, 19, was this year's Whitchurch-Stouffville recipient.

He began studying the violin at the age of seven. He has received teaching from the assistant concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Since 2010 Matthew has been studying with former professor of 25 years from the University of Toronto faculty of music, Leo Wigdorich. Matthew graduated from Unionville High School in 2011 with an Arts York diploma of music.

He has started Sensational Strings, a business providing semi-formal to formal music entertainment for various types of events.

Matthew teaches violin out of his studio in Stouffville, but also travels to students' homes for lessons. Matthew plans to attend one of the major conservatories in the United States for his post-secondary education in the near future.

For more, visit celebrationofthearts.yorkregion.com

Matthew Euwes, 19, began studying the violin at the age of seven. He received a bursary at Celebration of the Arts.

CORRECTION NOTICE

The Eastside Chevrolet advertisement in the Oct. 24 edition in the Stouffville-Sun Tribune indicated that "GM will make your first month's payment and EASTSIDE WILL MAKE YOUR SECOND MONTH'S PAYMENT!" this refers to finance 'only not on leasing. We apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused.

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