

THE VIRGINIA CHORAL SOCIETY

PRESS RELEASE

2012 VCS Music Scholarship Awarded (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Newport News, VA, April 16, 2012 (PR14)

In November 2009, The Virginia Choral Society (VCS) established a scholarship fund for a high school graduating senior who desired to continue his/her education with a focus on music performance or education. VCS is pleased to announce and offer our congratulations for our 2012 award to **Ms. Sara Martin**, a graduating senior from Grafton High School.



At each of our spring concerts, Ms. Martin will sing "*Gretchen am Spinrade*" by Franz Schubert. Ms. Martin will receive a \$1000.00 award and will perform at three concerts on April 27 (8:00pm) at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hampton, April 28 (8:00pm) and April 29, (3:00pm) at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6807 Huntington Avenue, Newport News, VA.

Encouraged by her parents, Kelly and Joe Martin, Sara exhibited a budding interest in music; she began piano lessons in 2nd grade and started choir in 7th grade. Music has now become a lifelong passion. She has accomplished much musically and received numerous awards for her abilities. Her awards include being part of District choir for all 5 years she auditioned; receiving the director's award in 2008 and 2011 from school choirs; and being recognized as the Best Soloist award at Music in the Parks with Peninsula Children's Chorus two years in a row. She is also a part of the Mentorship program at her school which allowed her to teach at Grafton Middle under her mentor, Elizabeth Higginbotham.

In addition to her musical activities, Sara is involved in various other aspects of her community. She is the vice president of the Tri-M music honor society, historian of Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, a member of National Honor Society and secretary of both Key Club and Drama Club. She has also been a part of the past five drama productions at Grafton High.

She is highly active in her church, Gloria Dei Lutheran, of which she has been a member since moving to Virginia in 1998. There she has been member in their senior choir, youth choir, and hand bell choir. In her spare time not dedicated to music, Sara enjoys sewing, baking, and crafting.

Sara plans to attend George Mason University in the fall to obtain a BA in Music Education with a vocal concentration.

Sara wishes to spread the joys of music to the next generation and inspire them to embrace the motto, "*Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.*" – Henry Van Dyke

Three performances have been scheduled as follows:

- Friday April 27, 8:00pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hampton, Virginia
- Saturday April 28, 8:00pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Newport News, Virginia
- Sunday April 29, 3:00pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Newport News, Virginia

TICKET INFORMATION: Advance ticket purchases may be obtained from members of the VCS, at Pro Music and Sound Store (Tabb area), Guest Services at the Peninsula Town Center and online at www.vachoralsociety.com (ShowTix4U).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information regarding the Virginia Choral Society is provided on our webpage: www.vachoralsociety.org on the VCS Concert Line at 851-9114.