

Joint first-place winners of the Youth Talent Auditions sponsored by La Jolla Civic/University Orchestra and Chorus

February 2, 1973

Fifteen-year-old violinist Geoffrey Applegate and mezzo-soprano Diana Davidson have been picked as joint first-place winners of the Youth Talent Auditions sponsored by the La Jolla Civic/University Orchestra and Chorus Association. Applegate and Miss Davidson were among 16 musicians who competed for awards in the annual contest held on the campus of the University of California, San Diego.

According to Donald Dierks, music critic of the San Diego Union and Chairman of the Committee of Judges for the contest, the music made by the contestants was of such high quality that, "everybody could have been named the winner." The two first prizes were made possible by the contribution of an additional \$200 by an anonymous donor.

Applegate, of La Mesa, has studied violin with UCSD graduate student Mary Gerard for six years. He was a member of the San Diego Youth Symphony and is currently a member of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra under UCSD graduate student Glenn Block. He attends Grossmont High School and has performed in numerous concerts including the Young Artist Concert at the San Diego Public Library in 1970.

Miss Davidson, of San Diego, is a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory of Music and has studied at the Goethe Institute in Grafing, Germany. She has performed in opera oratorio and recitals and was a member of the San Diego Contemporary Opera Workshop in 1972.

Cellist Ronald Robboy was named second-place winner. He has been a member of the Oregon Symphony in Portland, the San Diego Symphony, and the San Diego Opera Orchestra. He has studied in the UCSD Music Department and at the Aspen Music School Music Academy of the West.

Third place winner was Mark Dresser, contrabass, who has played with the Indiana University Symphony, the Burbank Symphony, the Pomona Festival Orchestra, and the La Jolla Civic/University Orchestra. His repertoire includes both standard and jazz compositions and he played with Joe Bush and the Hubcaps for several years in Los Angeles.

Violinist Jim Stark, currently working on his master's degree in the Music Department at UCSD, was awarded honorable mention in the contest. He is a member of the San Diego Symphony and plays first violin with the New Age String Quartet.

In addition to Dierks, the panel of judges included David Ward-Steinman, composer-in-residence at California State University, San Diego, Dr. Joseph Whiteford, retired president and tonal director of the Aeolian Skinner Organ Company of Boston; Dr. Edwin London, Director of the La Jolla Civic/University Orchestra and Chorus; and Mrs. Donald Hazleton, Chairman of the Auditions Committee.

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