

# CRESCENDO MUSIC AWARDS DRAWS OVER 100 CONTESTANTS!

By Linda Wilson  
*GasserOnline Correspondent*

Until a few short years ago little had been done to assist gifted student musicians to continue their education with the best teachers available. Also, the lack of student funds had created a huge increase in the number of students who were not continuing their musical education. Recognizing this, members of the Rotary Club of Tulsa decided to adopt a program that would remedy this inadequacy. Now, eleven years later, a program that addresses this need is well on its way to becoming recognized as one of the best in the nation.

With over 100 applicants, 2009 will be the largest competition in the Crescendo history. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Crescendo Music Awards Finals Competition and Concert will be held Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 7:00 pm at First United Methodist Church in Tulsa. High School and College Music students from across the country will be auditioning over a 3-day period culminating in the final round of competition for collegiate performers held in a public concert format on Saturday night. Over \$39,000 in cash awards will be presented that evening in the disciplines of Strings; Brass and Woodwinds; Piano; and Voice. A distinctive panel of jurists will include professors and musicians representing the musical arts at the highest level. For years the People's Choice Award has become a crowd favorite with the audience voting for the winner who receives \$2,500.

Founded in the spring of 1999 with a budget of \$1,500 by the Rotary Club of Tulsa, the Crescendo Music Awards Program has grown to a budget of over \$70,000. Total awards to high school and college students in 2008 were valued at \$44,100 and included cash as well as a study grant for the prestigious Salzburg summer program in Austria. By the end of the 10th season, in the spring of 2008, over 500 students had auditioned and \$224,000 had been awarded to extremely talented young musicians.

Crescendo Chair **Linda Bradshaw** is pleased to see the Finals Concert audience grow each year as they realize the joy of watching and listening to talented young musicians from all over the country. "It's not just classical music. It's music that warms the soul." The Crescendo Music Awards Finals Concert is open to the public with \$25.00 tickets available for purchase by calling the Rotary Club of Tulsa at 918-584-7642. Don't miss the 2009 slate of talented young musicians on their way to outstanding performance careers. For more information on the event please visit [www.CrescendoMusicAwards.com](http://www.CrescendoMusicAwards.com).

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Crescendo committee members (L to R) Jerry Muratore, Linda Bradshaw, Cory Nickerson, Linda Wilson and Joseph Bias (Photo Linda Wilson)