



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 23, 2008

Contact: Kitty Heflin  
Phone: (301) 215-7762  
Fax: (301) 215-9818  
Web: [kheflin@thelaurelfund.org](mailto:kheflin@thelaurelfund.org)

**FOURTH ANNUAL CAPITAL TALENTS SHOWCASES LOCAL YOUNG PERFORMING ARTISTS  
JUNE 11, 2008, AT 6PM, AT KENNEDY CENTER'S MILLENNIUM STAGE**

Washington, DC - The Laurel Fund for the performing arts presents one performance celebrating the artistry and diversity of metropolitan Washington, DC's most gifted youth on Wednesday evening June 11, 2008 at 6PM at the John F. Kennedy Center on the Millennium Stage. Admission is free. For more information, call (301) 215-7762.

The national capital area is replete with dynamic young dancers, musicians and actors who are trained at the area's premiere arts' schools, organizations and by private instructors. The Laurel Fund has invited these arts groups to nominate a gifted student or ensemble aged 10 to 19 years to participate in Capital Talents.

Debuting March 13, 2005 at the historic Lincoln Theatre, Capital Talents brings together in one public performance some of the many talented young performers who ordinarily only perform for an audience at their own arts organization. In this way, a broader audience can experience the wealth of talent thriving in the greater metropolitan Washington DC area.

This year's performance includes DC's Dance Place's Step Team; male soloists Robert Mulvey and Kensuke Yorozu from The Washington School of the Ballet and Ellen Grocki from the Berrend Dance Center in Olney, MD. Instrumentalists include percussionist/pianist Kush Adabey, 15, of Cheverly, MD, a student at the Levine School of Music; pianist Anna Russell, 14, of Washington, DC, who also studies at the Levine School and Aurelio Menendez, a ninth grade classical guitarist, who studies at the Washington Conservatory of Music. Max Talisman, 14, of Bethesda, MD, a student at Rockville's Musical Theater Center will perform a song from a Broadway show and Keziah Jean-Paul, 15, of Washington, DC, and a sophomore at DC's Duke Ellington School of the Arts, will present a theatrical monologue. Kush Abadey, Anna Russell and Keziah Jean-Paul are all former Laurel Fund grantees.

THE LAUREL FUND for the performing arts was founded in 2000 by Elvi Moore to promote all the performing arts and to encourage, nurture and assist deserving young artists from the DC area, and to instill in them the spirit of giving back to the community. From 2000-2006, The Laurel Fund awarded 68 tuition scholarships to study music, theater and dance. Laurel Fund grantees performed at 60 local venues including homeless shelters, drug recovery centers, hospitals, youth centers and residences for seniors, among others.

The Honorary Board of The Laurel Fund includes Alma J. Powell, Chair of America's Promise- The Alliance for Youth; Barbara Harrison, NBC 4 News Anchor; and Michael Kaiser, President of The Kennedy Center. In addition to Elvi Moore, founder and president, Victor Shargai and Willamarie Moore comprise The Laurel Fund Board of Directors.

For more information on Capital Talents and THE LAUREL FUND for the performing arts, call us at (301) 215-7762; fax us at (301) 215-9818 or email us at [info@thelaurelfund.org](mailto:info@thelaurelfund.org)

Visit us at our website at [www.thelaurelfund.org](http://www.thelaurelfund.org)