

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**62nd ANNUAL BMI STUDENT COMPOSER AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**NEW YORK – May 19, 2014** - Broadcast Music, Inc. ® (BMI®), in collaboration with the BMI Foundation, has announced the eight young classical composers, ages 14 to 27, who have been named winners of the 62nd Annual BMI Student Composer Awards. Renowned American composer and Permanent Chair of the Student Composer Awards, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, BMI President Del Bryant, and BMI Foundation President Deirdre Chadwick announced the decisions of the jury and presented the awards at the reception held on May 16, 2014, at the J. W. Marriott Essex House Hotel in New York City.

**The 2014 award winners are**:

* Michael Boyman – William Schuman Prize, awarded for most outstanding score (Tied this year with Phil Taylor) – age 24, studies at the Manhattan School of Music
* Saad Nadim Haddad – age 21, studies at the University of Southern California
* Paul Eddison Lewis – age 26, studies at the University of South Florida
* Grant Luhmann – age 19, studies at Indiana University
* Chris Rogerson – age 25, studies at Princeton University
* Phil Taylor – William Schuman Prize, awarded for most outstanding score (tied this year with Michael Boyman) – age 24, studies at the University of Chicago
* Daniel Temkin – age 27, studies at the University of Southern California
* Benjamin P. Wenzelberg – Carlos Surinach Prize (awarded to the youngest winner of the competition) - age 14, studies at the Juilliard School Pre-College Division

Deirdre Chadwick, Executive Director for Classical Music at BMI, commented, “The BMI Student Composer Award is one of the most prestigious awards that a young composer can earn, and I'm honored to be part of its long history." Chadwick continued, "Nothing gives me greater pleasure than shining the light on these young artists at a critical stage in their careers."

The distinguished jury members for the 2014 competition were Kristin Kuster, Ingram Marshall, Bernard Rands and Kevin Puts. The preliminary judges were Alexandra DuBois, David Fulmer, Shafer Mahoney and Sean Shepherd. Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, a former winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Music, is the permanent chair of the competition.

The BMI Student Composer Awards recognize superior musical compositional ability. Winners receive scholarship grants to be applied toward their musical education; awards this year totaled $20,000. In 2014, more than 300 manuscripts were submitted to the competition from applicants throughout the Western Hemisphere, and all works were judged anonymously. BMI, in collaboration with the BMI Foundation, has awarded nearly 600 grants to young composers throughout the history of the competition.

**ABOUT THE AWARD WINNERS**

**Michael Boyman** (*Tightrope Walker* for orchestra)

Composer and violist Michael Boyman is the recipient of the 2011 International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition. An alumnus of the New York Youth Symphony, Mike served as principal violist of the orchestra from 2010-12 and was a member of Making Score, the organization’s composition program. A graduate of New York University, where he studied political science and music composition with Justin Dello Joio, Mike is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Composition studying with Richard Danielpour at the Manhattan School of Music. He also serves at the school as a Fellow in the Center for Music Entrepreneurship.

**Saad Haddad** (*Mai* for string quartet and electronics)

Saad Haddad’s music has reached audiences from all around the world, with performances by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the American Composers Orchestra, the Sonus Quartet, the Vancouver Chamber Choir, and the Hollywood Master Chorale, among many others. In May/June, he will serve a four-week residency at the Copland House as one of the winners of the 2014 Copland House Residency Award. His orchestral work, *Maelstrom*, was read by the American Composers Orchestra as part of the 2013 Underwood New Music Readings under the mentorship of composers Robert Beaser, Joan Tower, and Christopher Theofanidis. Past accomplishments include the summer of 2011, when Saad was mentored by composer Samuel Adler in Berlin as part of the FUBiS program. In addition, from 2007-2009, Saad became part of the first group of high school composers to participate in the acclaimed Los Angeles Philharmonic Composers Fellowship Program, where he was commissioned to compose *Heart of the Hall* for the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Saad is currently completing a Bachelor’s in Music Composition at USC’s Thornton School of Music, where he studies under Bruce Broughton, Frank Ticheli, Stephen Hartke, and Donald Crockett.

**Paul Eddison Lewis** (*The Ninth Gate* for contrabass quartet)

Paul Eddison Lewis has composed a variety of works, ranging from electronic to large ensemble works, with ten world premieres during the last year. His involvement in electro-acoustic music has resulted in several works for fixed media and live instrument and electronics. In 2014, Paul's work *The Ninth Gate* for contrabass quartet was honored with the highly coveted BMI Student Composer Award.

Having earned an Associate of Arts degree from Hillsborough Community College, Paul is currently pursuing a BM in Composition from the University of South Florida. His primary composition teachers include Paul Reller and Baljinder Sekhon.

In addition to his compositional achievements, Paul is an active contrabassist, performing with the USF Symphony Orchestra under the direction of William Wiedrich and the Mostly Pops Orchestra under the direction of Robert Romanski.

**Grant Luhmann** (*The Triumvirate* for percussion trio)

Minnesota-born composer Grant Luhmann’s works earned performances by ensembles such as the GRAMMY-winning Parker String Quartet, the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, the Encore Wind Ensemble, and the Copper Street Brass Quintet. Frequent recipient of state and national honors, his most recent awards include a 2013 ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Award, first place in Indiana University’s High School Composition Competition, the Charles B. Olson Young Composers Contest, the James and Paula Nelson Young Composers Competition, an honorable mention in the Minnesota Orchestra Composers Institute, and more. He was recently featured in the Star Tribune and on Classical Minnesota Public Radio.

In addition to composing, Grant is cofounder of the youth community activism group, Young Musicians of Minnesota, a group originally formed to voice students’ dissent with the Minnesota Orchestra lockout. The program delivered highly-praised summer youth symphony concerts in 2013 performed alongside Musician of the Minnesota Orchestra and continues high-profile work across the state, frequently earning state and national media attention.

Grant is a Jacobs Scholar at Indiana University, pursuing a BM in composition with a concentration in oboe performance. He studies composition with Don Freund and previously studied with Libby Larsen. He also studies oboe with Roger Roe. Grant is a member of ASCAP and publishes through his own company, Mondegreen Press.

**Chris Rogerson** (*String Quartet No. 2)*

Hailed by the *Washington Post* as a “confident, fully-grown composing talent,” Chris Rogerson’s music has been praised for its “virtuosic exuberance” and “haunting beauty” (*New York Times*). His works have been performed by the Kansas City Symphony, New World Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Grand Rapids Symphony, and New York Youth Symphony at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Library of Congress. Chris has won awards and fellowships from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Aspen Music Festival, ASCAP, BMI, and the Theodore Presser Foundation.

He is managed by Young Concert Artists and attended the Curtis Institute and Yale University. Chris is currently a doctoral fellow at Princeton University studying with Steve Mackey.

**Phil Taylor** (*Chiaroscuro* for chamber orchestra)

Phil Taylor (b. 1989) grew up in Salem, Oregon and received a B.Mus. in composition *summa cum laude* from Willamette University. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in composition at the University of Chicago and studies with Augusta Read Thomas and Howard Sandroff. In addition, Phil has worked extensively with Shulamit Ran, Marta Ptaszyńska, John Peel, and Jan Sandström. He has also collaborated with the artists of Pacifica Quartet, eighth blackbird, Duo X, the Imani Winds, the Spektral Quartet, the Willamette Chamber Players, and fEARnoMUSIC and maintains an active role as a pianist in Chicago. This is his second BMI Student Composer Award; his BMI-winning work will be publicly read at the University of Chicago under conductor Cliff Colnot in June. More information can be found on his website, [www.philtaylorcompositions.com](http://www.philtaylorcompositions.com).

**Daniel Temkin** (*From Distant Dreams* for orchestra)

Daniel Temkin’s music has been widely performed by leading ensembles, including the Nashville Symphony, the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, the Curtis and Rutgers Symphony Orchestras, the PRISM Saxophone Quartet, the Trio-ING piano trio, and others. Daniel has received commissions from the Rock School for Dance, the George Markow-Totevy Foundation, the Lyra Harp Society, and private donors. In addition, his work has been supported by awards and grants from ASCAP, BMI, New Music USA, the American Composers Forum, the Theodore Presser Foundation, and other leading arts organizations. Daniel was the 2012 Young Artist Composer in Residence at the Music from Angel Fire festival, as well as a fellowship composer at the Aspen, Fontainebleau, and Brevard Music Festivals.

Originally a percussionist, Daniel has performed with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, and the Riverside Choral Society. He has played under conductors David Zinman, James Conlon, and Leonard Slatkin, and is featured on recordings of the Albany and Naxos labels.

Daniel holds a BM in Percussion from Rutgers University, an MM in Composition from New England Conservatory, and an AD in Composition from the Curtis Institute of Music. He studied percussion with She-e Wu and Chris Deviney, and composition with Charles Fussell, Michael Gandolfi, Jennifer Higdon, and Richard Danielpour. Daniel currently lives in Los Angeles, CA where his is a Doctoral Fellow at USC’s Thornton School of Music under the tutelage of Donald Crockett and Stephen Hartke.

**Benjamin P. Wenzelberg**– (*Midnight Tides: A Three Movement Piano Trio* for violin, cello, and piano)

Benjamin P. Wenzelberg is a fourteen year-old composition student at Juilliard Pre-College, studying with Dr. Eric Ewazen. Benjy was awarded the 2014 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer and Charlotte Bergen Scholarship Prize for his opera, *The Sleeping Beauty*. In addition, his percussion piece, *The Storm*, had its world premiere this October by the NYU Percussion Ensemble.

Aside from composition, Benjy is currently singing and performing in his fifth season with the Metropolitan Opera Children’s Chorus, and made his MET soloist debut this season in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. This spring, he sang Chichester Psalms with the Portland Symphony Orchestra in a performance narrated by Jamie Bernstein. Benjy has also been a soloist at Carnegie and Avery Fisher Hall, Shakespeare in the Park, the US Open, in Israel, and has performed with the New York Philharmonic and the Atlanta Opera. His portrayal of Miles in NY City Opera’s *The Turn of the Screw* last spring received rave reviews. He is currently featured on the track, *The Silent Night,* of vocal group Forte’s recently released CD.

In addition, Benjy is a classical and jazz piano scholarship student at the 92nd St. Y, and part of the NY Youth Symphony’s conducting program. He made his conducting debut at age eleven as part of the Crested Butte, Colorado Music Festival.

**ABOUT THE BMI FOUNDATION, INC.**

The [BMI Foundation, Inc.,](http://www.bmi.com/foundation/) a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1985, is dedicated to encouraging the creation, performance and study of music through awards, scholarships, internships, grants and commissions. Support for the Foundation comes primarily from BMI affiliated songwriters, composers and publishers, BMI employees, and members of the public with a special interest in music. Many donors have chosen to contribute to the Foundation in the spirit of "giving back" to the field of music, which they feel has been generous to them. Because all members of the Foundation's staff and the distinguished members of the Advisory Panel serve without compensation, over 91% of all donations and investment income is available for charitable grants. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Throughout the year, the Foundation works to administer the various competitions for awards, scholarships, internships and commissions. The final selections for these programs are entrusted to panels made up of some of the world's most distinguished artists and musicians, all of whom volunteer their time and knowledge. The focus of these programs is on American music; however, there are several opportunities open to international students.

The Foundation also awards grants on an annual basis that are directed primarily to not-for-profit music organizations from around the country. The Foundation's Advisory Panel reviews and makes recommendations for these awards, which range from the support of classical music groups specializing in contemporary works, to musical theatre programs for inner-city youngsters, to programs designed to preserve and continue such indigenous American music as jazz and blues.

###

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)

Leah Lupo

212-220-3142

llupo@bmi.com