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WINNERS OF CASH PRIZES TOTALING \$252,000 ANNOUNCED FOR THIRD ANNUAL JOSÉ ITURBI INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

LOS ANGELES, June 20, 2009 – The recipients of cash prizes totaling \$252,000 for The Third Annual José Iturbi International Music Competition at UCLA – the highest cash prizes of any piano and singing competition worldwide – were announced tonight (piano) and yesterday (vocal) at Schoenberg Hall.

The winners of the week-long piano competition were:

\$50,000 First Prize –	Dmitri Levkovich, 29, Ukraine
\$25,000 Second Prize –	Goran Filipec, 27, Croatia
\$15,000 Third Prize –	Alexey Kudryashov, 20, Russia
\$3,000 Spanish Prize –	Dmitri Levkovich, 29, Ukraine
\$3,000 American Prize –	Alexey Kudryashov, 20, Russia
\$3,000 President's Prize –	Vladimir Khomayakov, 24, Russia
\$3,000 People's Choice –	Vladimir Khomayakov, 24, Russia

The winners of the week-long vocal competition were:

\$50,000 First Prize –	Leah Crocetto, 29, USA
\$25,000 Second Prize –	Heidi Melton, 27, USA
\$15,000 Third Prize –	Audrey Elizabeth Luna, 30, USA
\$3,000 Spanish Prize –	Leah Crocetto, 29, USA
\$3,000 American Prize –	Audrey Elizabeth Luna, 30, USA
\$3,000 President's Prize –	Amber Wagner, 29, USA
\$3,000 People's Choice –	Leah Crocetto, 29, USA

"The talent of this year's competitors was staggering," said Donelle Dadigan, President of the José Iturbi Foundation. "Our finalists are truly destined for stardom."

Six finalists received cash prizes of \$2,000 in addition to the \$1,000 received by each of the 12 semi-finalists.

The competitors were selected from hundreds of applicants in 39 countries. Some journalists have described the competition as "Classical Idol" since the competition gives cash prizes for "people's choice" awards in addition to the prizes voted by the judges.

Matthew Epstein, Daniel Pollack, Carol Vaness, Eduardo Delgado, Bruce Sutherland, Vladimir Viardo, Oxana Yablonskaya, Marvelee Cariaga, Sharon Daniels and Robin Thompson were the 10 "world class" judges for the event. Famed accompanist Martin Katz participated with the vocal finalists on June 19.

This is the only classical competition in which competitors are required to sing and play works of famed American composers George Gershwin or Cole Porter in addition to opera arias as well as perform piano works of famed composers including Beethoven, Chopin and Tchaikovsky.

Sponsors of the 2009 Third Annual José Iturbi International Music Competition include The Beverly Hilton, California Bank and Trust, Los Angeles Times, Steinway & Sons, Fields Pianos, Performances Magazine and The Hollywood Museum. More information about the competition is available at www.joseiturbifoundation.org.

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