FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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NPR’S HIT SHOW FROM THE TOP  
SEEKS LOCAL TALENT  
FOR UPCOMING CENTER FOR THE ARTS PERFORMANCE  
FEATURING GUEST HOSTS ANDERSON AND ROE  

PRE-COLLEGE-AGE CLASSICAL MUSICIANS WANTED  
MUST APPLY BY NOVEMBER 15, 2019

(Fairfax, VA) From the Top, the hit NPR radio program showcasing America’s best young classical musicians, is seeking local talent for its live show recording on Saturday, February 29 at 8 p.m. at the Center for the Arts. Guest hosts Greg Anderson (a From the Top alum himself) and Elizabeth Joy Roe will emcee the program and perform alongside the young artists for the Center for the Arts performance. The weekly hour-long radio program is heard Sundays on WETA 90.9 FM at 6 p.m. as well as more than 200 other stations nationwide.

From the Top welcomes audition entries from young classical musicians, ages 8 to 18 who have not yet graduated from high school. Solo performers on all instruments, composers and vocalists, as well as instrumental or vocal ensembles are welcome. In addition to seeking talent for its upcoming live concert in Fairfax, VA, the program seeks young musicians for other concerts that are part of its national tour on a rolling admissions basis.

Application and scholarship information is available online at www.fromthetop.org/apply.

To be considered for From the Top at the Center for the Arts in Fairfax, eligible young classical musicians must submit recordings and complete an application by November 15, 2019.

Of the more than 100 musicians chosen to appear on the radio program every year, approximately 20 will receive Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Awards in support of furthering their musical education. These scholarships of up to $10,000 are given to deserving young classical musicians between the ages of 8 and 18 who have high levels of artistic achievement, demonstrated financial need, and a solid academic record.

Celebrating its 20th season the air, From the Top is the most popular weekly one-hour music program on public radio. The 90-minute live show features spirited performances and entertaining interviews with five featured soloists and/or ensembles. Young performers share their passion for classical music, and speak about their non-musical lives, from career goals and family traditions to hidden talents, school, and community life.
A core component of the From the Top Experience is participation in Arts Leadership training and Community Engagement. Arts Leadership sessions are integrated into the schedule of rehearsals and events surrounding the radio taping and take place in a supportive and non-competitive atmosphere in which musicians are encouraged to bond with one another. Through group exercises and discussions, young musicians explore how they can utilize their artistry beyond traditional performance settings; gain a broader perspective on classical music and its larger artistic and societal context; develop a greater understanding of possible career choices within the music world in addition to possibilities outside of music; and are introduced to a range of ways to be involved in their communities. Performers put their learning into practice by creating and implementing customized engagement activities in the communities From the Top visits, ranging from visits to soup kitchens and senior centers, to performances designed for young audiences.

For additional information, please contact From the Top Recruitment, at 617-437-0707 x 134 or auditions@fromthetop.org.

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**About From the Top**

Based in Boston, From the Top is an independent non-profit organization that supports, develops, and shares the artistic voices and stories of young classically-trained musicians. Its national platform and leadership programs amplify the hope, passion, and discipline of today’s extraordinary young musicians. From the Top provides young musicians with live performance opportunities in premier concert venues across the country; national exposure to nearly half a million listeners on its weekly NPR show; leadership and community engagement preparation; and more than $3 million in scholarships since 2005. From the Top’s radio program is made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. It is also supported through the generous contributions of individuals and institutions as well as public radio stations. Learn more at www.fromthetop.org.

**About the Center for the Arts**

The Center for the Arts is the premier destination for the arts in Northern Virginia. Each year, the Center welcomes hundreds of thousands of community members into its 2000-seat Concert Hall. The centerpiece of artistic programming within the Center, Great Performances at Mason, is an annual season of national and international artists, featuring the best of classical music, opera, jazz, global music, dance, theater, and more. As a part of George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Center hosts many student and faculty performances presented by the Schools of Music, Theater, and Dance as well as events for School of Art and the Film and Video Studies, Computer Game Design, and Arts Management programs. Understanding that an education in the arts is deepened by regular contact with the work of distinguished visiting artists, the Center for the Arts serves arts enthusiasts of all ages in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

**About George Mason University**
George Mason University is Virginia’s largest public research university. Located near Washington, D.C., Mason enrolls 37,000 students from 130 countries and all 50 states. Mason has grown rapidly over the past half-century and is recognized for its innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable diversity and commitment to accessibility.

For more information, please visit:
George Mason University’s Center for the Arts

#MasonArts

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