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## OMAHA TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR MUSICAL COMPOSITION COLLECTION REFLECTING ON MUSIC'S ROLE IN SOCIETY

Winston F. Schneider Named A 2024 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

Omaha, Neb. — The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2024 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 16-year-old Winston F. Schneider of Omaha. Schneider won a \$10,000 scholarship for his project, "Music has lots of different uses in life. There are pieces that lift your spirit, or interest your mind, or fill you with religious or passionate or dreamy or triumphant feelings... some pieces are written only to amuse you." – Leonard Bernstein. He is one of only 20 scholarship winners in the 2024 Fellows class.

"I'm incredibly appreciative that the Davidson Fellows Scholarship recognizes the significance of music in the world," said Winston F. Schneider. "I'm grateful and excited to receive a scholarship, and it will give me a tremendous boost in what I've set out to do for the rest of my life."

Inspired by Leonard Bernstein, one of America's foremost musical figures, Schneider's project reflects on how his own compositions align with Bernstein's vision of music's role in society. Having composed over 100 pieces, Schneider showcased 14 of his most significant works, applying them to Bernstein's seven purposes of music and reflecting on their societal impact and usefulness.

Schneider is a rising high school junior in Omaha. In the future, he plans to study composing and conducting. He is a passionate advocate for music education access and runs an annual concert event to raise funds for local organizations that provide music education at no cost to families.

"This year's class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients exemplifies the power of innovation and perseverance," said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. "Our Fellows continue to push the boundaries of their educational and research pursuits, striving to solve some of the world's most challenging problems by leveraging creative, outside-the-box thinking and cutting-edge technology to expand their networks, access new sources of information, and deliver an impressive array of diverse projects."

The 2024 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and with a virtual project presentation ceremony in September 2024.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program offers \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships to students 18 or younger, who have completed significant projects that have the potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and music. The Davidson Fellows Scholarship has provided more than \$9.9 million in scholarship funds to 448 students since its inception in 2001, and has been named one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships by <u>U.S. News & World Report</u>. It is a program of the Davidson Institute, a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Reno, Nev. that supports profoundly gifted youth.

## **About the Davidson Institute**

Founded by Bob Davidson in 1999, the Davidson Institute recognizes, nurtures and supports profoundly intelligent young people, and provides opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference. The Institute offers support through a number of programs and services, including the Davidson Fellows Scholarship and the <u>Davidson Academy of Nevada</u>. For more information about the 2024 Davidson Fellows, please visit: <u>DavidsonFellows.org</u>.

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