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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 17, 2009

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STUDENTS TAKE TOP HONORS AT CONCERTO-ARIA COMPETITION

MISSOULA –

Three University of Montana seniors have been named winners of the UM School of Music 2009 Concerto-Aria Competition, held Dec. 11 in the Music Recital Hall.

In addition to taking top awards in the competition, the students will be featured performers with the UM Symphony Orchestra at events during spring semester.

This year's Concerto-Aria Competition winners are:

- Luke Juras, trumpet, from **Great Falls**.
- Lauren Gibson, flute, from **Mercer Island, Wash.**
- Seth Quay, piano, from **Dillon**.

Quay will be featured with the orchestra at a March 23 concert in the University Theatre. Juras and Gibson will be featured performers at UM's annual Honors Convocation. The event is held each May to honor scholarship recipients and donors.

"The UM Concerto-Aria Competition gives our most talented performers a chance to show their best work," said UM music Professor Anne Basinski. "It is a great privilege to play as a soloist with a full symphony orchestra. To have so many skilled people donating their time and talent to work on music that the soloist has chosen is a rare opportunity for a young musician."

Students who received honorable mention in this year's competition are:

- Luke Truman, tuba, a UM freshman from **Rexford**.

- Rachel Bucholtz, soprano, a UM graduate student from **Selah, Wash.**
- Chris Hanson, marimba, a UM senior from **Proctor.**

“All of the competitors worked very hard to seek this accolade, and our winners know they have been truly honored,” Basinski said.

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