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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE WALTER W. NAUMBURG FOUNDATION  
ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE  
2006 VIOLA COMPETITION**

**First Prize: DAVID AARON CARPENTER; Second Prize: ERIC NOWLIN;  
Third Prize: JONAH SIROTA; and Honorable Mention: DAVID KIM**

*October 19, 2006, New York City.* On Wednesday evening, October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Walter W. Naumburg Foundation announced the winners of its 2006 Viola Competition.

**David Aaron Carpenter**, age 20, was named first prizewinner. His prize includes a cash award of \$7,500; two fully subsidized New York recitals of which one, will feature a commissioned viola work by David Bermel; a performance of the Gunther Schuller Viola Concerto with Orchestra, as well as recital and orchestral performances. Mr. Carpenter is from Great Neck, New York, and currently is a junior at Princeton University where he is a political science major. He studies viola privately with Roberto Diaz.

A second prize of \$5,000 was awarded to **Eric Nowlin**, age 26, a founding member of a dynamic new music series based in New York City, *Project One*, which presents programs that explore the philosophical and cultural contexts of today's music through concert and discussion. Mr. Nowlin is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, and The Juilliard School, where he received both his master's and bachelor's degrees studying with Samuel Rhodes.

**Jonah Sirota**, age 30, was named third prizewinner and receives a prize of \$2,500. Mr. Sirota is a founding member and violist with the Chiara String Quartet, currently artist-in-residence at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He received his bachelor of music degree from Rice University where he studied with Martha Stongin Katz and Roberto Diaz; and his master's degree from The Juilliard School under the tutelage of Samuel Rhodes.

**David Kim**, age 25, received Honorable Mention and is currently a student at New England Conservatory where he studies with Kim Kashkashian and Carol Rodland.

Forty violists competed in the competition's preliminary round that took place on October 12, 13, and 14, at the Kosciuszko Foundation. Nine violists were selected to compete in the semi-finals that took place on Monday, October 16, in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Last evening's final round was in John C. Borden Auditorium at Manhattan School of Music. The 2006 Naumburg Viola Competition jury included Robert Mann, Misha Amory, Toby Appel, Earl Carlyss, Lawrence Dutton, John Kochanowski, Nicholas Mann, Paul Neubauer, Michael Ouzounian, and Mark Sokol.

The **Walter W. Naumburg Foundation** was founded in 1926 by Walter W. Naumburg and continues today in the pursuit of ideals set out by Walter W. Naumburg. His desire to assist the gifted young musician in America has made possible a long-standing program of competitions and awards in solo and chamber music performance, composer readings, and conducting. It was Mr. Naumburg's firm belief that such competitions were not only for the benefit of new stars, but very much for these talented young artists who would become prime movers in the development of the highest standards of musical excellence throughout America.

Currently in its eightieth year, The Walter W. Naumburg Foundation has held two viola competitions previously. Thomas Rieble was named the prizewinner, and Paul Neubauer received a special award in 1982; and Misha Amory was named the first prizewinner in 1991.

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