



**April 7, 2009**

## **UWF ANNOUNCES PHILLIPS JAZZ PIANO COMPETITION WINNERS**

PENSACOLA- The University of West Florida Department of Music and the Kathleen T. and Philip B. Phillips, M.D. family are proud to announce the winners of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Kathleen T. and Philip B. Phillips, M.D. Jazz Piano Competition which was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm at the newly refurbished Saenger Theatre. This year's event was made possible by the generosity of the Phillips family.

"This event has become a nationally recognized competition and an opportunity for the country's best jazz pianists to showcase their talents. Each year the talent pool gets deeper and it becomes harder and harder to choose the five finalists as well as the winners," said Kyle Marrero, chair Department of Music. "The generosity of the Phillips family and their vision are the driving force behind its success".

First Place (including prize money of \$5,000): Born in the Czech Republic, **Jiri Levicek**, is currently enrolled in the University of North Texas College of Music.

Second Place (including prize money of \$3,000): **Ross Margitza**, is currently working on his Bachelors in Jazz Studies at Michigan State University where he studies with Rodney Whitaker.

Third Place (including prize money of \$1,500): From Monterrey, Mexico, **Roberto Verastegui**, is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree at the University of North Texas. He is from the studio of Stefan Karlsson.

Honorable Mentions (including prize money of \$250 each): **Peter John Stoltzman**, is currently pursuing his Doctoral degree in music and human learning at the University of Texas. **Sean Dietrich**, is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree in jazz at Northwest Florida State College.

The Audience Favorite Award was awarded to Ross Margitza.

For media inquiries, contact Jerre Brisky, CFPA assistant director at (850) 857-6057 or email [jbrisky@uwf.edu](mailto:jbrisky@uwf.edu).