

# THE 2011 ELAINE EHLERS ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

## **MADELYN ELTRINGHAM**

I am Dick Eger, A Trustee on the Arts Council Board, and it is my pleasure tonight to present the Arts Council of the Morris Area's two arts scholarship winners.

Ten years ago, The Arts Council of the Morris Area collaborated with Elaine Ehlers' family to initiate a scholarship to be given annually to foster new artistic talent, helping a graduating Morris County high school senior who possesses artistic talent to pursue further study in an area related to the arts. Created as a tribute to the memory of my late wife, Elaine Ehlers, the scholarship is an enduring legacy to recognize artistic excellence and encourage the artists of the future. Elaine, a health-care administrator by profession, had a voracious appetite for all things artistic and musical. She derived intellectual and emotional sustenance from the arts, and received great pleasure when she took young people to concerts, the theater and museums.

The Arts Council invites young artists of Morris County who exhibited artistic excellence in the areas of dance, drama, music and the visual arts to compete for this scholarship.

I am pleased to announce that this year's Elaine Ehlers Arts Scholarship award winner of \$4,750 is Madelyn Eltringham, who lives in Oak Ridge, NJ and is a graduating senior at Morris County School of Technology, Academy for Visual and Performing Arts in Denville who will be attending the State University of New York at Purchase next year.

This extraordinary dancer has trained privately with Adam Barruch at Juilliard, with the NJ Dance Theatre Ensemble, with

Freespace Dance Company, the Randy James Dance Works, faculty at the Academy for Visual and Performing arts High School as well as with top teachers from summer intensives of the Bolshoi, American Ballet Theatre and Paul Taylor Dance Company.

Madelyn was a finalist in the Youth America Grand Prix Nationals in NY, won a scholarship for the Bolshoi Ballet's Summer Intensive, serves as Vice President of the National Dance Arts Honors Society Chapter) and is a nominee for the Student Award for Artistic Excellence and Leadership in Dance (2010).

She excels at both ballet and modern dance and the related arts of choreography, drama/sound and light techniques and even music composition, skills abundantly evident in her scholarship application DVD.

One of her dance teachers comments, "She is a beautiful and expansive mover with a professional work ethic and sophisticated aesthetic...In my many years of teaching, I have rarely worked with someone so open and available to all in front of her....It is easy to applaud this young artist for her strong and extraordinary work..."

Ruth Clark, Artistic Director for the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts' Dance program wrote, "Madelyn is a natural technician, a gifted expressive performer and highly creative. As a choreographer, she is original, musical, organized, responsible and respectful to all cast and crew...Our guest artist choreographers, such as Randy James and Lynne Grossman, reward her technical talent and professional attitude with demanding solo work....There is not enough room to talk about her achievements, talents and potential...Madelyn has magic."

The Arts Scholarship panel jurying this year's applications was greatly impressed by Madelyn's artistry, her grace, poise and presence. Her classical ballet work *en pointe* was on a highly professional level, technically precise and elegant in its beauty. Her modern dance solo improvisation (with her original choreography and original music!) was full of energy, inventiveness and highly creative combinations. In every clip, she displayed a formidable technique, a beautiful sense of line, full extension, fluid motion and a true joy in movement.

Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Arts Council of the Morris Area, it is my great pleasure and privilege to award the tenth annual Elaine Ehlers Arts Scholarship to this wonderfully gifted young dancer, Madelyn Eltringham.

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