

## **THE 2015 EUGENIE COLADARCI ARTS SCHOLARSHIP**

### **TORI HEY**

Seventeen years ago, as a part of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Morris Arts collaborated with the Coladarci family and initiated what has become a \$1,500 scholarship award to be given annually to a graduating Morris County high school senior who plans to pursue further study in an area related to the arts. Created as a tribute to the memory of our former Board Chair, Eugenie Coladarci, the scholarship recognizes artistic excellence and encourages the artists of the future, in keeping with Morris Arts' mission and with Genie Coladarci's role as a statewide champion of the arts who actively encouraged the development of young artists and strongly believed the arts were essential to the quality of life.

I am pleased to announce that this year's award winner is Tori Hey, a talented ballet dancer who lives in Chester and is also soon to graduate West Morris Mendham High School.

Qualifying as one of the Top 12 Senior Contemporary Soloists in the Youth America Grand Prix, Tori Hey has also received the 2013 Susan E. Reilly Scholarship, the 2012 New York City Dance Alliance Outstanding Dancer Scholarship and a Perry-Mansfield Summer Intensive Scholarship. Because of her academic standing, West Morris Mendham High allowed her to enter a special program which allows students to divide time between academics and part-time professional training as a dancer. Seizing this opportunity, she has trained with world renowned ballet teachers in NYC, achieving that extra "edge" needed to be successful in a dance career. To develop her technical skills and artistic expression, she has spent long hours studying with mentors from the French Academie of

Ballet, New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble, Ballet Forte, Art of Dance Performing Company, and undertook private coaching with Francesca Harper of The Forsythe Company, Talin Kenar of the Hong Kong Ballet and Carolina Ballet, Alexandra Wells of Juilliard), Linda Kent of Juilliard, Alvin Ailey and Taylor Companies, and summer intensives with professional companies such as LINES Contemporary Ballet, Complexions, Perry Mansfield, and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet.

Talin Kenar stated “I have found Tori to be uniquely gifted in her willingness to embrace every aspect of being a dancer, not just the reward of performing but the process of receiving, contributing, translating, and giving to the process of preparation that performing requires. Her openness and passion make her a pleasure to teach, and these qualities, along with her striking presence, make her a lovely and vivid performer.” Her guidance counselor adds, “Every so often as a Guidance Counselor, I find a student comes along that just stands out as exception. Tori Hey is that sort of student.”...She “is one of the brightest in her class with a strong work ethic and a passion for dance.”

The panelists were deeply impressed by her technical precision, the beauty of her line, the mature artistry evident in her *pas de deux* and her clear love for the art of dance as evident in the quality of her movements. Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Morris Arts, it is my great pleasure to award the seventeenth annual Eugenie Coladarci Arts Scholarship to ballet dancer Tori Hey.

Will Tori Hey please come up to accept her award.

March 25, 2015