

**Davidson Fellow**  
**Heather Engebretson**  
(\$50,000 Scholarship Recipient)



**Personal Info**

Heather Engebretson  
Age: 16  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

**School, College and Career Plans**

Heather was homeschooled and will attend the University of Alabama this fall majoring in vocal performance. She hopes that this experience, as well as courses taken through the Johns Hopkins distance learning program, will help her to someday realize her dreams of becoming an opera singer.

**Davidson Fellows Submission** (*Literature*)

In her portfolio, "Music as Universal Communication," Heather views music as a method of communication and a tool for social progress. Heather's portfolio is a collection of vocal pieces showcasing her range from musical theater to operatic arias, highlighting both the intricacy of language and the temporal aspects of music. She earned first place in the Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing, the Mississippi Symphony Young Artist's Competition, the PRIDE Talent Search and Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music scholarship. Heather played the violin in appearances on NPR's "From the Top" and with the Interlochen Intermediate Divisional Symphony Orchestra.

**Biography**

Heather's passion for drama began at Central Elementary School, the setting of her first three years of schooling. Here she became engulfed in the school's musical theater program, and her love of the violin and singing took off from there.

A 2000 title role in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra led to a series of noteworthy performances. Heather appeared on "The Steve and DC Morning Show" in 2001 as a vocalist. She also performed during OperAlaBama 2006: The Queen of the Night in Mozart's *Magic Flute*. Heather has appeared in vocal and violin recitals throughout the Southeast.

Heather has put her astute ability to use as a teacher as well. In 2002, at the age of 12, she began giving private violin studio lessons. She has also spent time as a violin instructor at Oakdale Primary School.

*Please see next page.*



**Davidson Fellow Laureate  
Heather Engebretson**

(Cont.)

**Honors/Awards**

- 2006 Davidson Fellow Laureate
- 2006 Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Advanced High School Women category
- 2006 American Federation of Music Clubs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place High School Female Vocalist category
- 2006 and 2004 Louise Pickard Scholarship Competition, Strings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and Honorable Mention
- 2005 Music Teachers National Association, 1<sup>st</sup> Place State and Honorable Mention Southeast region, high-school strings
- Two-year recipient of the Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music Scholarship: 2004 and 2005 school years
- 2006-2007 Accepted to the Cleveland Institute of Music
- 2004 Mississippi Symphony Young Artist's Competition, Strings, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- 2003-2004 Concertmaster, Alabama Youth Symphony
- 2003 Concertmaster, Interlochen Divisional Symphony Orchestra
- 2005 PRIDE Talent Search, Intermediate Aged Vocalist, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- 2003 Eunice Hoffmeister Young Artist's Competition 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- 2002 Leading role in regional and school theater production, *Twelfth Night*
- 2000 Leading role in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra
- 1997 Leading role in regional and school theater production, *The Trial of Goldilocks*
- 1995 Leading role in regional and school theater production, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

**Community Activities**

Heather hopes to enact positive social change to improve the world.

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