

Youth Jazz Guild students receive scholarships

Six students from the Richmond Youth Jazz Guild collectively have been awarded \$381,000 in college scholarships, according to Ashby Anderson, guild founder and artistic director.

Mr. Anderson, a jazz composer and performer, proudly called this the largest amount ever awarded to members of the performing arts program he founded in 2008 and that operates from a converted warehouse in Shockoe Bottom.

He also announced that guild members have won nearly \$30,000 in additional scholarships to participate in summer performing arts programs at Berklee College of Music, the Interlochen Center for the Arts and Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Mr. Anderson said the 2015 results boost the total scholarship amount awarded to guild members to more than \$1 million in the seven years since the program began.

Of the six winners of college scholarships, two are graduating from Open High School in Richmond.

They are trumpeter Drew Anderson,

who has been awarded a scholarship worth \$170,000 to The New School in New York, and pianist Ayinde Williams, who has been awarded a scholarship worth \$86,400 to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Drew also has received a \$3,500 scholarship to attend the Jazz at Lincoln Center's Summer Jazz Academy, while Ayinde also has been awarded a Berklee College scholarship worth \$5,078 to attend the school's five-week summer performance program in Boston, as well as a \$500 scholarship from the Young Arts Foundation to support her participation.

Other guild winners of college scholarships include three Henrico County students: Pete Dennis, bass player, of Deep Run High, \$40,800 from Temple University in Philadelphia; Brenten Layne, drums and percussion, of Hermitage High, \$20,000 from Virginia State University in Ettrick; and Stephen Lewis, pianist, of Highland Springs High, \$40,000 from Norfolk State University.

The sixth scholarship winner is Jalen Nicholas, pianist, of Matoaca High in

Chesterfield County, who was awarded \$20,000 from Hampton University.

Other guild members who won summer scholarships are: George Maddox, pianist, 10th grade, Hanover High, \$5,078, from Berklee College; Kofi Shepsu, ninth grade, drums, Appomattox Regional Governor's School, \$5,078 from Berklee College;

Ariyana Woody, ninth grade, bass player, Appomattox Regional, \$5,078 from Berklee College; and Jake Zaslav, trumpeter, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, \$1,000 to attend the Interlochen Center for the Arts' summer program and \$3,000 to attend the Berklee College summer program.

Mr. Anderson also announced that three other guild members have been accepted to college music programs: Emory Freeman, saxophone, Thomas Dale High of Chesterfield, is headed to Virginia Commonwealth University; Spencer McCollum, saxophone, Thomas Jefferson High, is headed to Temple; and Brandon Shaw, saxophone, of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, is headed to Virginia Tech.