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**Herb Alpert Scholarships for Emerging Young Artists
To Bring \$1.2 Million in Aid to Teens at
California State Summer School for the Arts (InnerSpark)**

**Press Conference Tues., June 3, 10:00 a.m. at Paramount's Sherry Lansing Theater
Will Showcase Successful Alumni, Announce 2008 Area Students**

Sacramento and Santa Monica, Calif – June 3, 2008 – After 22 years of providing an esteemed summer arts program to 10,000 talented high school students aspiring to careers in the arts and entertainment industries, the California State Summer School for the Arts (InnerSpark) will now offer its students the opportunity to receive college financial aid through the Herb Alpert Scholarships for Emerging Young Artists.

The Herb Alpert Foundation (HAF) has committed \$1.2 million to the Scholarships so that 18 students each year can be designated Scholarship recipients. HAF funds are coordinated with the California State Summer School Arts Foundation (CSSSAF), a non-profit organization created to support InnerSpark in achieving its mission via a unique public and private sector partnership.

A press conference will be held Tues., June 3, at 10:00 am. at the Sherry Lansing Theater on the Paramount Studios lot. The event will showcase successful alumni in the arts, including actress Kirsten Vangsness, seen as Penelope Garcia on the CBS series *Criminal Minds*; Gary Bryman, producer and VP Creative Short Form at Disney Studios and Teal Wicks, currently playing the (lead) role of Elphaba in *Wicked* at the Pantages Theatre in L.A., who will announce the 2008 InnerSpark students who will be eligible for the first Scholarships.

Herb Alpert has long believed in helping motivated young artists. "The time is now to focus public attention on the need for quality arts programs for all California students," Alpert said. "It is our pleasure to present CSSSAF and InnerSpark with the financial support necessary to provide scholarships to California junior and senior high school students who are committed to developing their talent to continue their education and careers in the arts."

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HAF Scholarships - 2-2-2

Rona Sebastian, president of the Herb Alpert Foundation, explained the evolution of the Scholarship Program. "Our Foundation has been providing talented high school students with the opportunity to pursue their dreams of becoming professional artists through a 10-year partnership with the California Alliance for Arts Education -- Emerging Young Artists Awards," she said. "As that program was reaching its conclusion, we knew the benefits of helping those students had been so dramatic that we wanted to continue, expand and enhance the awards. The natural choice was to seek a partnership with a strong educational institution already focused on recognizing and nurturing talented young artists."

Sebastian went on to state that "the selection of InnerSpark as our new partner is essential to the success of our Scholarships. InnerSpark was chosen because it is an exceptional example of an organization that has leveraged a public and private partnership successfully. Our partnership will give committed young artists the opportunity to achieve their goals and ease the financial burden of attending college."

Robert M. Jaffe, Director of InnerSpark, noted that "this school has provided the highest quality professional artistic training to the most deserving teenagers regardless of their economic situations. On average, 40 percent of our students receive financial aid. We are indebted to the Herb Alpert Foundation for these new Scholarships which extend the services of the InnerSpark program, by creating a link to institutions of higher learning. The value of our program will not only impact these motivated students well into their college years, but into their professional lives."

The Scholarships include three awards in each of six categories: Animation and Film/Video, Creative Writing, Dance, Music, Theater, and the Visual Arts. In each category, one outstanding student will receive up to \$40,000 to be awarded over the course of four years, and two students will receive single-year awards of \$2,500.

Starting in August 2008, InnerSpark department faculties will choose award winners from enrolled 11th and 12th grade InnerSpark students during the final week of the month-long program. The selection criteria will include a balanced assessment of artistic talent, character and motivation, likeliness of success in a collegiate or professional training program, and financial need.

Each student who is awarded the Scholarship will receive counseling from InnerSpark's financial aid consultant to ensure that students maximize their resources for the best chance at admission and a good financial aid package at the college/arts conservatory or professional training program of their choice. The InnerSpark consultant will also coordinate with respective financial aid offices for each student's university-aid package and Scholarship.

For the 520 students accepted each year, InnerSpark represents a unique opportunity to spend four weeks studying and working with professional artists, writers and performers of national stature. The talented teenagers who successfully complete the program will receive three units of California State University course credit and be honored as Governor's Arts Scholars.

Sophie Buhai, co-founder of Vena Cava, the award-winning fashion house, is a 1998 CSSSA alumna who remembers the value of the program.

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HAF Scholarships – 3-3-3

"InnerSpark is a great opportunity for high school students to come together in a nurturing and magical environment," she recalled. "The program not only improves the students' craft, but also allows for friendships and creative collaborations between peers."

Those wishing to find out more information about InnerSpark and CSSSAF should visit www.innerspark.us on the web, or call the Sacramento headquarters at (916) 274-5815.

About the Herb Alpert Foundation

The Herb Alpert Foundation, a non-profit, private foundation established in the late 1980's, makes significant annual contributions to a range of programs in the fields of *Arts*, *Arts Education* and *Compassion and Well Being*. Its funding is directed toward projects in which Herb and Lani Alpert and Foundation President Rona Sebastian play an active role. The Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals.

About California State Summer School for the Arts

The California State Summer School for the Arts, known colloquially as InnerSpark, was created by the California Legislature as a state agency and offers instruction in the fields of animation, music, dance, film and video, theatre, creative writing and the visual arts. More than 10,000 young Californians have attended since the program's inaugural session in 1987. For many of them, InnerSpark has proven to be the first step to important and successful careers in the arts and related industries.

Alumni of the program include actor and Golden Globe recipient James Franco, featured in the *Spiderman* movies and the films *Annapolis*, *Flyboys*, and *City by the Seas*; Craig McCracken, the Emmy Award-winning animator and creator of *The Powerpuff Girls*; creative writer Dakila Davina, now managing editor of *Parade Magazine*; dancer Sharon Grimsley Teague, principal soloist for the Houston Ballet; award-winning fashion designer Sophie Buhai; and 2006 *American Idol* runner-up Katharine McPhee.

The California State Summer School Arts Foundation (CSSSAF) as mandated in the enabling legislation, was created in 1986 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization to be the private sector partner supporting InnerSpark to help achieve its mission by seeking corporate, foundation and individual contributions. This is a unique public and private partnership in California. At the cornerstone of the Foundation's role is the CSSSA Scholarship Fund, to ensure that no talented student is denied admission to InnerSpark because of an inability to pay tuition and fees. CSSSAF has awarded nearly \$4 million in scholarships to more than 39 percent of the highly talented students who have attended InnerSpark.

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