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**“Ten Grands Young Artist” competition accepting audition tapes;  
contest winners to perform during Ten Grands concert at Benaroya Hall**

SEATTLE, Wash. (Nov. 13, 2009) -- Young musicians in Washington, Oregon and Idaho are invited to vie for a scholarship and a chance to perform on stage at Benaroya Hall during the third annual Ten Grands concert on May 21, 2010. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is part of the grand prize that awaits the winner of 98.1 Classical KING FM’s “Ten Grands Young Artist Awards.”

The competition, presented in collaboration with Ten Grands Seattle and The Snowman Foundation, is open to musicians between the ages of 6 and 18. Non-professional acoustic instrumentalists, vocalists, or ensembles of up to six people are eligible to submit the entry (consisting of an audition recording and entry form) until Jan. 31, 2010. Acceptable submissions are YouTube clips lasting no more than five (5) minutes.

“Ten Grands is a sensational evening for music lovers and people who share a passion for making music accessible to children. We created this program to honor young, up and coming artists, as an outlet to celebrate their talent and hard work,” said Bryan Lowe, Program Director at 98.1 Classical KING FM.

Twenty semi-finalists will be showcased for public voting online from Feb. 8 until March 1, 2010 at [www.king.org](http://www.king.org), with half of them advancing as finalists. These finalists will perform together at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Ten Grands event, with the grand prize winner featured in a solo performance and presented with a \$1,000 scholarship from KING FM.

Entries will be judged in phases:

1. All entries are due by January 31, 2010.
2. On or about Feb. 1, 2010, a judging panel will select 20 semi-finalists from all entries.
3. On or about Feb. 8 until March 1, 2010, these semi-finalist videos will be posted online for a public vote. One vote per household per week is allowed.
4. On or about March 15, 2010, KING FM will announce the top 10 finalists and the grand prize winner.

Along with the opportunity to perform at Benaroya Hall, contest winners will receive various prizes from KING FM, ranging from tickets to the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Opera to exclusive back stage meetings with major artists and CDs from KING FM and ArkivMusic. The top ten finalist videos will also be featured on the front page of the KING FM website. Official contest rules and entry forms are online at [www.king.org](http://www.king.org).

“We are excited by this partnership between KING FM and Ten Grands and the opportunities it provides for talented young musicians,” said Kathy Fahlman Dewalt, executive producer of Ten Grands Seattle and a longtime music educator. “Whether kids aspire to be professional musicians, or just want the fun experience of preparing an audition tape, the Young Artist Awards promises to be a memorable and rewarding experience,” she suggested.

### **About 98.1 Classical KING FM**

KING FM, broadcasting on the radio at 98.1, and online with five channels at KING.org, is a commercial radio station, making substantial annual contributions to the arts in the Puget Sound region, thanks to an unparalleled ownership arrangement created by the Bullitt family. Legendary broadcaster Dorothy Bullitt created KING FM in 1947 specifically to bring classical music to the Northwest. The ownership of King Broadcasting Company passed to her daughters, Priscilla Collins and Harriet Bullitt upon her death in 1989. In 1992, they put KING FM under the control of a newly created company, Classic Radio, Inc., which is the present licensee of KING FM. In turn, they donated their shares in that for-profit company to Beethoven, a nonprofit corporation. These channels will add to the mission of Beethoven, a non profit corporation: supporting the arts community while providing financial support through a dividend.

### **About Ten Grands and The Snowman Foundation**

Ten Grands Seattle ([www.tengrands.com](http://www.tengrands.com)) is a one-night only concert held annually to raise funds for The Snowman Foundation. The concert features ten grand pianos and ten talented musicians all on the dramatically lit stage at Benaroya Hall, plus some selected guest artists. Musicians play a variety of classical and contemporary pieces in various combinations, from soloist to simultaneous.

Proceeds benefit The Snowman Foundation ([www.thesnowmanfoundation.org](http://www.thesnowmanfoundation.org)), a non-profit charitable organization that was established in Portland, Ore. in 1999 in response to budget cuts affecting K-12 and community-based music programs. Ten Grands concerts are scheduled in Portland on April 2 and April 3, 2010 and in Seattle on May 21, 2010.

Foundation founder Michael Allen Harrison, a popular pianist, composer and artistic director, formed the organization as a way to “give the gift of music to children” and to share the “joy, the healing, the learning and the life-changing gifts music has to offer.

Twelve Puget Sound-area groups received grants from funds raised at the sellout “Ten Grands” concert held April 3, 2009 at Benaroya Hall.

Tickets for the May 21 Ten Grands concert in Seattle presented by RBC Wealth Management go on sale Dec. 1 at [www.benaroyahall.org](http://www.benaroyahall.org) and by phone, (206) 215-4747 (Benaroya Hall Box Office).