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National Flute Association Announces 2009 Competition Winners

New York City Convention was Best Attended in NFA History

New York, NY, For Immediate Release: The National Flute Association 37th Annual Convention, which was held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City from August 13 – 16, drew over 4,600 flutists, composers, flute scholars and flute enthusiasts from all over the world, making it the best attended convention in the history of the NFA. Highlights of the convention included performances and workshops by Sir James Galway, who received the NFA's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award. Sir James also led a successful attempt to break the World Record for Largest Flute Ensemble with 1,989 flutists of all ages and nationalities performing a medley of tunes, including a special adaptation of "Danny Boy" commissioned by Sir James for the event. The record will become official upon confirmation from Guinness and will surpass the previous record of 1,975 flutists set on July 14, 2009 in China. Photos of the event and other convention highlights are available at www.nfaonline.org. A video of the World's Largest Flute Ensemble is available at www.jamesgalway.com.

The NFA convention brings together the most outstanding flutists from all over the world, and provides a showcase for exceptionally talented young musicians. The NFA sponsors 16 competitions to select outstanding flutists to perform at its conventions and to reflect the diverse talents of its members. The $5000 first prize for the 2009 Young Artist Competition, which is open to flutists worldwide who are 30 or younger, went to Brook Ferguson, a flutist with the New World Symphony who has held principal flute positions in the Delaware and Knoxville symphony orchestras. Ferguson was a member of the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra for two summers, culminating in a third summer as a New Fromm Player. Her primary teachers were Jeanne Baxtresser, Alberto Almarza, and Marina Piccinini. Flutist Terri Sanchez, currently a student of Kara Kirkendoll Welch at Southern Methodist University, won the $2500 second prize, and flutist Judy White who is studying with Jonathon Keeble at the University of Illinois, was awarded the $1000 third prize.

The First Place Winner of the High School Soloist Competition and recipient of the Geoffrey Gilbert Prize is 16 year old Jennifer Zhou. Zhou is principal flute of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and studies under Beth Owen. She was featured on NPR's *From the Top* and has won numerous awards including the second annual President's Own Marine Band Competition and the opportunity to perform with the Marine Band in their Young People's Concert. Second prize went to 17 year old Christopher James from Toronto, and third place was awarded to Yidan Zhao, a 17 year old studying at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

New competitions this year included the Jazz Flute Big Band Competition, featuring 30 awardees who performed a midnight cabaret concert at the convention under the direction of jazz flutist Ali Ryerson with special guest soloists, Lew Tabakin and Holly Hofmann. For a complete listing of competitions winners, visit nfaonline.org/competitions/2009winners.

The 2010 NFA convention will be held in Anaheim, California from August 12 – 15 honoring Lifetime Achievement Award recipients Leone Buyse and Fenwick Smith, and National Service Award recipient Gwen Powell. Entries for the 2010 competitions must be postmarked by February 13, 2010. The National Flute Association is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1973 and is the largest flute organization in the world. Membership in the NFA and attendance at the convention is open to all flutists and flute enthusiasts. The NFA has approximately 6,000 members from more than 50 countries.

For more information, please visit www.nfaonline.org.

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Hi-resolution photos of the World's Largest Flute Orchestra and the winners of the 2009 Young Artist Competition, High School Soloist Competition and the Jazz Flute Big Band Competition are available by request.