



NATIONAL  
**YOUNGARTS**  
FOUNDATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW YORK, NY (March 7, 2018):** In January, the **National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts)** kicked off the year with the annual YoungArts Backyard Ball performance and gala, which Max Mara presented for the fourth consecutive year. Reinforcing the brand's continued commitment to supporting the arts, especially within education and cultivating young talent, Max Mara celebrates the third annual **Max Mara Young Visionary Award**—an accolade reserved for an exceptional YoungArts winner at the highest award level of \$10,000. The award financially supports a young artist as they develop their craft and fosters arts education by encouraging young artists to pursue their dreams.

Max Mara is pleased to announce YoungArts Winner in Voice **Emily Damasco** as the 2018 Max Mara Young Visionary Award winner. Maria Giulia Maramotti, Max Mara Director of Retail for North America and Global Brand Ambassador, will present Damasco with this award during an exclusive cocktail event at the Max Mara Miami boutique on **Tuesday, March 20**.

Emily Damasco is a talented and extraordinary operatic performer. The 17-year-old from Glen Mills, Pennsylvania has been studying voice since the age of six and performing regularly in various festivals, art programs and middle and high school theatrical productions.

*Emily Damasco on her work:*

*"Music penetrates the minds and souls of human beings. Providing music to a community or to a special group of musicians-in-training touches all their lives. My musical strength is the ability and the desire to inspire my audiences, guide my audiences and, when possible, heal my audiences. I want to leave unforgettable sensations and memories with those for whom I perform and with whom I work."*

The inaugural Max Mara Young Visionary Award winner was Javon Jones (2016 YoungArts Winner in Dance) of Detroit, Michigan; and the 2017 recipient was Torrance Hall (2017 YoungArts Winner in Photography) of Glenn Allen, Virginia.

**MAX MARA**

Max Mara, the premier collection within the Max Mara Fashion Group and is the epitome of Italian luxury and style. As a contemporary collection for the confident woman, consisting of opulent fabrications with couture details applied to ready-to-wear, Max Mara pieces embody femininity and craftsmanship. Symbolic for impeccable silhouettes with a timeless sensibility and constructed from the most luxurious fabrics, Max Mara is revered for the classification of the coat, sharp suiting and elegant accessories. Founded in 1951 by the late visionary, Achille Maramotti, Max Mara is now available in 2,378 locations in more than 100 countries. Max Mara Fashion Group counts 9 different collections. The company remains privately held.

Max Mara's support of fostering young talent within the next generation is reinforced through the brand's ingrained commitment to supporting the arts and education through various platforms, including a longstanding partnership with Women in Film and the Women in Film Max Mara Face of the Future Award, a collaboration with the Whitney Museum, biannual Art Prize for Women initiative and involvement with The Power Plant Contemporary Art Museum in Toronto.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION**

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, performances, and partnerships with some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

YoungArts' signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15–18 or in grades 10–12 from across the United States. Selected through a blind adjudication process, YoungArts winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rebecca Walker, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Carrie Mae Weems—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York) and New World Center (Miami). Additionally, YoungArts winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence.

YoungArts winners become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leading professionals in their fields include actresses Viola Davis, Anna Gunn, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Raúl Esparza, Billy Porter, Andrew Rannells and Tony Yazbeck; recording artists Josh Groban, Judith Hill and Chris Young; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton, Jennifer Koh and Elizabeth Roe; choreographers Camille A. Brown and Desmond Richardson; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; *New York Times* bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winners Doug Blush and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

For more information, visit [youngarts.org](http://youngarts.org), [facebook.com/youngartsfoundation](https://facebook.com/youngartsfoundation) or [twitter.com/youngarts](https://twitter.com/youngarts). To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click [here](#).

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