

**Jefferson Theatre Cultural Growth Program will present Brilliance**

# Alvarez, Ramirez, Segrest shine

**By Gwen Mercer  
Special/Hispanic Triangle News**

BEAUMONT — The Jefferson Theatre Cultural Growth Program will present Brilliance. This is the 5th annual showcase of young talent from Southeast Texas. It is a great opportunity to see and hear exceptional local talent performing the classics in the beautifully restored Jefferson Theatre.

For the young artists, this is their time to shine, some for the first time, in a professional performing arts theatre.

The event is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 11, at the Jefferson Theatre in downtown Beaumont. Performance begins at 7 p.m. and doors open at 6 p.m. for general admission seating. This showcase is a great opportunity for a family night as children and students are admitted free of charge. Adult tickets are only \$10 and some special rates are available.

For ticket information, call the Beaumont Civic Center Box Office at 409-838-3435, ext. 1. To charge tickets by phone, call Ticketmaster at 409-833-7747.

Performers include: Jennifer Anderson, Oboe; Philip Gay, Bass-Baritone; Stephen Mulvahill, Piano; Josmery Ramirez, Soprano; Alex Gilson, Cello; Andrew Segrest, piano and Donna Alvarez, Violin.

The event is generously sponsored by the Wachovia Rebuilding Fund of the Foundation for Southeast Texas.

Performer Donna Alvarez, 19, began the study of violin at age 12. A former student of Aggie In

of Beaumont, Donna later studied violin with Rodica Weber at Houston Baptist University. On scholarship, she attended the 2004 Philadelphia Orchestra String Camp in Bryn Mawr.

In addition to her music accomplishments at West Brook High School in Beaumont, she played in the SE Texas Youth Symphony and played in the Westgate Baptist Church Orchestra. Donna won the Houston American Festival for the Arts (AFA) 2005 concerto competition and was invited to play with the AFA Orchestra at Moore's School of Music, University of Houston. Currently, Donna has been a sophomore violin major at Houston Baptist University and has been accepted at the University of Texas, where she will study violin beginning in the first semester of 2008. She is a member of the Calvary Baptist Church orchestra. Donna is the daughter of Mrs. Connie Matte of Beaumont.

Soprano Josmery Ramirez, 21, is a Junior music student at Lamar University in Beaumont, studying voice with Debra Greschner. Josmery began the study of voice at age 15.

A three-year All-State Choir member, she was awarded a first place her senior year (2005). She placed third in the Houston NATS competition (2006); was a semi-finalist in the Tri-State NATS competition (2006); won the right to perform her Spring Honors Recital at Lamar University; and is an Honors student at Lamar. Josmery plans to pursue a performance career in voice, teach music in public schools, and become an advocate of music around the nation. Born in the Dominican Republic, she is a resident of Beaumont. Josmery is the daughter of Alba Mery Parra and the sister of Silvia Ramirez.

Andrew Segrest, 18, is a freshman at Lamar University

and a music education major, with concentration on voice. He studies piano and organ with Hugh E. Thompson Sr. at Thompson Studio of Music, his organ studies being on an A. W. Yeats Memorial Organ Scholarship for three years.

Andrew serves as organist of First United Methodist Church of Port Neches, Texas, as well as pianist at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Beaumont, Texas. He has studied voice with Gwyn Ramos and also sings in the Lamar University A Capella Choir. As a high school student, Andrew made #1 ratings in UIL state piano and vocal solos and was chosen for All State Choir in 2006.

He attended Pipe Organ Encounters 2006 in Waco, Texas, and was a featured pianist in Brilliance! III at the Jefferson Theatre in Beaumont in 2006. Andrew is the son of Ralph Segrest (U.S. Navy Retired) of Port Arthur,



**Josmery Ramirez**  
Texas, and Carmen Segrest of Port Neches, Texas, a native of Peru.

Other Brilliance performers include Alex Gilson, 13, an eighth grader at Orangefield Junior High School; Stephen Mulvahill, 16, who attends Grace Homeschool Co-op as a Junior in high school; and Jennifer Anderson, who is in her third year of college as a Music Education Major.



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