



CONNECTICUT
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
SERVING SCHOOLS AND THEIR LEADERS

CONNECTICUT HIGH SCHOOL
Outstanding Arts
AWARDS BANQUET

April 1, 2025
AQUA TURF CLUB | PLANTSVILLE, CT

CAS CT HIGH SCHOOL OUTSTANDING ARTS AWARDS

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) welcomes you to the 30th Annual High School Outstanding Awards Banquet to honor Connecticut's talented high school visual and performing arts students.

The Connecticut High School Outstanding Arts Awards annually honor two seniors from each CAS member high school who excel in the performing or visual arts and possess qualities of scholarship and leadership.

WELCOME

Victoria White
Assistant Principal, Shelton High School
CAS High School Board of Control Chair

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Tiffany Caouette
Assistant Executive Director, CAS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sadie Baimel
Student, Newtown High School

PRESENTATION OF THE "HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD"

Mrs. Cherese Odukwe
Director of Student Activities, CAS

Presented To:
Cooper Toland
Performing Arts Student, Stamford High School

SPEAKER

John-Michael Parker
Executive Director of Arts for Learning-CT
State Representative/Assistant Majority Leader

DINNER

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

Surcari
Music with a Latin Beat

PRESENTATION OF ARTS AWARDS

CLOSING REMARKS

Tiffany Caouette

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

LORENA GARAY &
SURCARI

This highly interactive musical performance with audience participation is based on the musical styles and traditions of South and Central America, the Andes, the Spanish Caribbean, Spain and Mexico. Surcari performs Latin music on a wide array of traditional instruments while wearing ethnic hats from each country they visit. Their colorful performances engage audiences of all ages as they sing and clap while learning about Spanish-speaking cultures. Student volunteers play an extensive collection of hand percussion instruments and create a rainforest soundscape along with Surcari.



**Arts for
Learning
Connecticut**

*Affiliated with the national
Young Audiences Arts for Learning network*





Heart of the Arts

2025 Honoree

COOPER TOLAND PERFORMING ARTS STUDENT STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Cooper Toland has always shined on stage and found comfort in the arts. She was just five years old when she started taking performing arts classes at Curtain Call in Stamford. She continued her journey through middle school before joining the Strawberry Hill Players, Stamford High School's prestigious drama club. "Being on stage and watching something from start to finish is the most amazing feeling," Toland says.

Toland has made it her mission to create an inclusive and fun space for everyone involved in the production. Starring in *The Prom* her sophomore year, Toland portrayed Emma, a young girl who was told she couldn't bring her girlfriend to her prom. "One of the biggest lessons that I learned was about acceptance," she says, "Being able to portray someone going through that sort of oppression, it just really opened my eyes to how important it is to serve as a voice for those who may not have them."

She builds relationships with every member of the production. "She knows that there are a lot of people that are involved in making things successful. And a part of that is she wants everyone to be recognized, as well, or to just have a friendly face," says Strawberry Hill Players Advisor Annie Dunn.

During her junior year, Toland had the lead role of Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* where she shared an emotional song with her best friend, who played Donna, her mother in the show. All the while, her own mother was in the audience and had just been diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer and would face months and months of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Despite the emotional toll this took on Toland, she kept her composure enough to keep the show on track.

In addition to all the work she puts into her performances, Toland is also an outstanding student. She is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, which is a highly rigorous planned program at Stamford High School that focuses on world thinking.

Toland was elected president of the Strawberry Hill Players; she is the assistant director of the United Nations Tutoring Program at Stamford High School, vice president of Cancer Kids First, and vice president at Curtain Call; she serves on the board of directors at The Summer Youth Theater; and, she is a member of the National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars. She also holds a part time job at DiMare Pastry Shop, Stamford.

Toland plans to attend a four-year college to obtain her undergraduate degree in political science. From there she hopes to go to law school to become an entertainment lawyer.



CAS CT HIGH SCHOOL OUTSTANDING ARTS AWARDS

Town	School	Honoree	Honoree
Avon	Avon High School	Drea Cusano	Evan Keane
Beacon Falls	Woodland Regional High School	Molly Stead	Noah Previdi
Berlin	Berlin High School	Aurora Logan	Nathan DeJackome
Bloomfield	Bloomfield High School	Morgan Powell	Chance Harvey
Bolton	Bolton High School	Emma Desrosiers	Tait Ekstrom
Branford	Branford High School	Kristine Do	Jake Coveyduck
Branford	North Branford High School	Isabella Onofrio	Nathan Danner
Bridgeport	Bullard-Havens Technical High School	Na'Kyaha Britton	Lizbeth Pacheco-Marquez
Bristol	Bristol Central High School	Emma Burciaga	Darrek Griffith
Bristol	Bristol Eastern High School	Dezerae Barrett	Claire Darling
Bristol	St. Paul Catholic High School	Rhianna Rosale	Madelyne Bielecki
Brookfield	Brookfield High School	Daphny Gualberto	Jessenia Rickard
Burlington	Lewis Mills High School	Thomas Leenhouts	Grace Bailot
Canton	Canton High School	James Barker	Shay Shaker
Central Village	Plainfield High School	Elora Donini	Aubrey Howard
Chaplin	Parish Hill Middle-High School	Fiona Hill	Jesse Forostoski
Cheshire	Cheshire High School	Quinn Clark	Sarah Silverman
Clinton	The Morgan School	Amber Robayo	Alyssa Aiken
Colchester	Bacon Academy	Avery Anderson	Oliver Markham
Coventry	Coventry High School	Brooke Rand	Jaka Powers
Cromwell	Cromwell High School	Almasa Omeragic	Joshua Styga
Danbury	Danbury High School	Grace Gibson	Kevin Rodriguez
Danbury	Henry Abbott Technical High School	Julia Squiciari	Daniella Forshaw
Danbury	Immaculate High School	Olivia Chila	Keira Licursi
Darien	Darien High School	Nicholas Johnston	Megan Hayes
Derby	Derby High School	Ferdinando Amartey	Joseph Izquierdo
East Granby	East Granby High School	Olivia Price	Xavier Elsner
East Hampton	East Hampton High School	Sean Jones	Jacqueline Laboy
East Hartford	Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy	Mikayla Nitura	Alex Miller-Davey
East Hartford	East Hartford High School	Alissia Mercado	Joshua Rodriguez
East Haven	East Haven High School	Ayah Vincent	Kimberly Carrera
East Lyme	East Lyme High School	Madeline Anderson	Evelyn Younghusband
East Windsor	East Windsor High School	Greaneleigh Wilczak	Maria Ferreira
Ellington	Ellington High School	Leo Rabus	Sawyer Brown
Enfield	CREC Academy of Computer Science and Engineering HS	Jazlynn Feliciano	Kemar Hall
Enfield	Enfield High School	Kairi Post	Ishan Patel
Fairfield	Fairfield Ludlowe High School	Isabella Vicente	Michael Scholl
Fairfield	Notre Dame Preparatory School of S.H.U.	Barbara Pohlen	Ariana Clifton
Fairfield	Fairfield Warde High School	Nicholas D'Andrea	Elizabeth Lake
Falls Village	Housatonic Valley Reg. High School	Harper Howe	Kaylin Clark
Farmington	Farmington High School	Jimmy Dong	Natalie Lombardi
Glastonbury	Glastonbury High School	Melina Velenzas	Evan Lionberger
Granby	Granby Memorial High School	Cole Metallo	Claire Martin
Griswold	Griswold High School	Ayumi Margulies	Natalie Obuchowski
Groton	Ella T. Grasso Technical High School	Nathaniel Pascal Figueroa	Lawson Higgins, Jr.

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Town	School	Honoree	Honoree
Groton	Robert E. Fitch High School	Penelope Garcia	Karl Victorino
Guilford	Guilford High School	Keoni McFee	Evelyn Bertolini
Hamden	Eli Whitney Technical High School	Maryalise Rivera	Crow Scalfani
Hamden	Hamden High School	Mia Gribbon	Cecilia Cangiano
Hamden	Sacred Heart Academy	Kelly Blute	Elizabeth Jinks
Hartford	A.I. Prince Technical High School	Keilyana Serrano	Kevin Roberts
Hartford	Hartford Public High School	Valeria Olave Vicent	Yarielis Otero
Hebron	RHAM High School	Tyler Fitzgibbons	Pippi Thompson
Higganum	Haddam Killingworth High School	Jayani Bennett	Amelia Petersen
Killingly	Killingly High School	Phillip Fernandez Garcia	Emily Fulton
Lebanon	Lyman Memorial High School	Rowan LaFleur	Nina Fusco
Ledyard	Ledyard High School	Joshua Cayangyang	Klaire Gieleghem
Madison	Daniel Hand High School	Alayna Grenier	Jeffrey Liang
Manchester	East Catholic High School	Michael Machewirth	Anna Tevelde
Manchester	Manchester High School	Lucas Garcia	Amanda Luna
Meriden	Francis T. Maloney High School	Naiomy Rios-Robles	Rowan Fisher
Meriden	O.H. Platt High School	John Fuerstenburg	Aniyah Young
Middletown	Mercy High School	Taylor Rovetti	Madelyn Brazeal
Middletown	Middletown High School	Hannah LaBella	Yuki Aalgaard
Middletown	Xavier High School	Caleb Todzia	Joshua Reichard
Milford	Academy of Our Lady of Mercy - Luralton Hall	Lane Pinto	Emily Wainwright
Milford	Jonathan Law High School	Sarah Gutierrez	Isabella Vancho
Milford	Joseph A. Foran High School	William Riedel	Sophie Hofmeister
Monroe	Masuk High School	Lindsey Merriman	Diamond Sanchez
Moodus	Nathan Hale Ray High School	Erin Maniebo	Makenzie Albert
Naugatuck	Naugatuck High School	Sam Klimovich	Maya Teator
New Britain	E. C. Goodwin Technical High School	Abigail Torres	Angel Torres Rodriguez
New Canaan	New Canaan High School	Henry Tate	Ben Bognon
New Fairfield	New Fairfield High School	Kayleigh Hacaj	Logan Madureira
New London	New London High School	Alyana Sanderson	Maria Serrano
New Milford	New Milford High School	Sophia Marie Gordineer	Kyra Brown
Newington	Newington High School	Corin Tate	Katherine Courtemanche
North Haven	North Haven High School	Chloe Diaz	Hannako Moffat
North Stonington	Wheeler High School	Chloe Sanders	Anna Barber
Norwich	Norwich Technical High School	Hannah Smith	Connor Kalinowski
Old Lyme	Lyme-Old Lyme High School	Janna Graves	Dominic Clark
Old Saybrook	Old Saybrook High School	Elizabeth Pamment	Catherine Pamment
Oxford	Oxford High School	Hannah Brunje	Scarlett Formato
Pawcatuck	Stonington High School	Alex Hatch	Fernanda Alva
Plainville	Plainville High School	Rebecca Rustico	Audrey Vandermark
Portland	Portland High School	Gabrielle Arnold	Nija Chester-Payne
Putnam	Putnam High School	Hailey Summers	Isabelle Magalhaes
Redding	Joel Barlow High School	Isabelle Wildgoose	Kieran Nevins
Ridgefield	Ridgefield High School	Sofia Mongardi	Charlotte Suozzi
Rocky Hill	Rocky Hill High School	Srisha Sarsanwar	Jahnavi Keelu

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Town	School	Honoree	Honoree
Sandy Hook	Newtown High School	Sadie Baimel	Emily Metzker
Shelton	Shelton High School	Benjamin Souza	Matthew Robinson
Simsbury	Simsbury High School	Quinn Robinson	Grace Wollenberg
Somers	Somers High School	Genevieve Curtis	Kinsey Loupe
South Windsor	South Windsor High School	Reshika Partheeban	Rajiv Rath
Southbury	Pomperaug High School	Destiny Kellogg	Sophia Ltaif
Southington	Southington High School	Grace Percival	Ellen Serenson
Stafford Springs	Stafford High School	Jaden Hurt	Kara Hoefle
Stamford	Stamford High School	Cooper Toland	
Storrs	E.O. Smith High School	Grace Bladen	Sylvia Halbrooks
Stratford	Bunnell High School	Carina Rivera	Daniel Planas
Stratford	Stratford High School	Katie Marquez-Paz	Taylor Dunbar
Terryville	Terryville High School	Cassandra Fortunato	
Thomaston	Thomaston High School	Kaelin Devaux	Konner Birkenberger
Tolland	Tolland High School	Sky Perdomo	Julia Haberern
Torrington	Torrington High School	Riley McIntyre	Brianna Palaguachi
Trumbull	St. Joseph High School	Alvin Rosario	Olivia Szczerba
Trumbull	Trumbull High School	Bailey Chapin	Isabella Cabral
Vernon	Rockville High School	Tatiana M. Rivera	Lorelei Hutchings
Wallingford	Lyman Hall High School	Jessica Merchan	Thomas Barron
Wallingford	Mark T. Sheehan High School	Megan Connors	Hadley Sorvillo
Waterbury	Holy Cross High School	Summer Austin	Jillian Guerrette
Waterbury	John F. Kennedy High School	Brian Torres	Jade Camacho
Waterbury	Waterbury Career Academy High School	David Rivera	Rebecca Phaykoo
Waterford	Waterford High School	Cecilia Rush	Sofia Fioravanti
Watertown	Watertown High School	Emily Whelton	Caleb McGaffey-Schipul
West Hartford	Conard High School	Ally Gallant	Ivanna Gavilano
West Hartford	Northwest Catholic High School	Nsidibe Uyi Udoumoh	Marisa Kalei Mikan
West Haven	Notre Dame High School	Michael Kupson	Patrick Guthrie
West Haven	West Haven High School	Jaylyn Powell	Zoe Powell
West Suffield	Suffield High School	Azura Eckley	Kaitlin Grandfield
Westbrook	Westbrook High School	Alexa Kiss	Matthew Izzo
Weston	Weston High School	Patrick Sullivan	Sydney Grunberg
Westport	Staples High School	William Vanamee	Andrew Maskoff
Wethersfield	Wethersfield High School	Alyssa Perdikakis	Caleigh Askintowicz
Willimantic	Arts at the Capitol Theater Magnet School	Andrew Grzywacz	
Willimantic	Windham Technical High School	Joxel Gonzalez	Alexyss Vargas
Wilton	Wilton High School	Caisie Kennedy	Hannah Hsu
Windsor	Windsor High School	Elizabeth Reilly	Amanda Acevedo
Windsor Locks	Windsor Locks High School	Karissa Mori	Joshua Arocho-Morales
Winsted	Northwestern Regional High School	Dahlia Alexander	Ash Hobro
Winsted	The Gilbert School	Haelynn-Rae Derby	Natalia Rodriguez
Wolcott	Wolcott High School	Sophia Wyner	Andrew Powell
Woodbridge	Amity Regional High School	Emily Sun	Soma Kim
Woodbury	Nonnewaug High School	Xavier Alexander	Kiera Jacobi
Woodstock	The Woodstock Academy	Katherine Ritzau	Luke Davis

THANK YOU CORPORATE PARTNERS

