



Contacts: **Robin Taylor**, Public Relations Director, 724-444-5580, [rtaylor@stbarnabashealthsystem.com](mailto:rtaylor@stbarnabashealthsystem.com)  
**Shelli Sommariva**, Marketing Communications Mgr., 724-443-0800, ext. 5244; [ssommariva@stbarnabashealthsystem.com](mailto:ssommariva@stbarnabashealthsystem.com)

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**KEAN QUEST ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF VOCAL COMPETITION**  
*Gabby Barrett wins Kean Quest 2014*

GIBSONIA, Pa. (Richland Twp.), April 14, 2014 - The Kean Theatre was abuzz with excitement for the return of **Jackie Evancho**. Coming full circle, **Evancho** went from performing on the Kean Theatre stage as a Kean Quest contestant in 2008 and 2009 to presenting an award in her honor and serving as a guest judge.

When asked if she had any advice for the contestants performing in the 2014 Kean Quest Talent Search Youth Finale on Friday, April 11, Jackie addressed the finalists stating, "I enjoyed each and every performance and I can't stop smiling - thank you all!"

**Gabby Barrett** of Pittsburgh won the 2014 Kean Quest Talent Search title, impressing the judges with her rendition of "Mercy." She was accompanied on the guitar by Jason Novak, and won a recording package with Grammy award-winning studio Audible Images. Gabby is an eighth grade student at St. Teresa's and received the Audience Choice award in the semi-final round of the competition. Her performance in the finale received the top combined score of the four judges out of the 29 contestants performing during the Youth Finals.

**Jake Pederson** of Gibsonia won the Audience Choice award with his performance of "All of Me" by John Legend. The Pine-Richland High School freshman played the piano and sang - receiving the most votes from the audience - winning the second recording package with Audible Images. Jake was also the Audience Choice winner in the first preliminary round of the competition.

Standing on the stage where she gave her first public performance, Evancho presented **Maura Yates** of Franklin Park with the fourth annual "**Jackie Evancho Award**." The award is presented to a contestant who has competed in Kean Quest for two or more years, works hard, and never gives up no matter what the outcome is of the competition.

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St. Barnabas Health System, Media Relations, 5850 Meridian Rd., Gibsonia, PA 15044-9667

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Yates played the guitar and performed Taylor Swift's hit "Picture to Burn." She has competed in Kean Quest four years and is a senior attending North Allegheny High School.

Selected as first runner-up was **Cortney MacKay** of Hubbard, Ohio. She performed the song "Don't Rain on My Parade" from the musical "Funny Girl." She attends Hubbard Middle School.

Selected as second runner-up was **Shailen Abram** of Pittsburgh. He played the piano and sang a medley of "Grenade" by Bruno Mars, "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" by The Beatles, and "All of Me" by John Legend. He attends Brashear and Creative and Performing Arts schools.

A total of 29 contestants performed during the Kean Quest Youth Finale April 11 at the Kean Theatre:

- **Colin Aikins**, Lower Burrell (Mary Queen of Apostles)
- **Kaylee Bechtold**, Mars (St. Kilians)
- **Jason Born**, Brookline
- **Aubrey Burchell**, Irwin (Norwin)
- **Ariel Cameroe**, McDonald (Our Lady of Grace)
- **Vanessa Clarke-Deaver**, Latrobe (Latrobe)
- **Diana Craycroft**, Munhall (Steel Valley)
- **Joelle Germeyer**, Canonsburg (Canon-McMillan)
- **Jane Fusco**, Ross Twp. (North Hills)
- **Nicholas Hannan**, Avalon (Northgate)
- **Sofia Herr**, Greensburg (Latrobe)
- **Sara Hopkins**, Avalon (North Gate)
- **Lacey Kernan**, Pittsburgh (CAPA)
- **Brittany Mospan**, Aliquippa (Lincoln Park Performing Arts)
- **Blair Nelson**, Mt. Lebanon (Mt. Lebanon)
- **Angelina Patarini**, Emsworth (Avonworth)
- **Angelina Poole**, Unity Twp. (Latrobe)
- **Cierra Ritzert**, Fairview Twp. (Karns City)
- **Stephen Rothhaar**, Venetia (Peters)
- **Grace Rusnica**, Irwin (Hempfield)
- **Olivia Scullion**, Pine Twp. (Pine-Richland)
- **Tommy Thomas**, Pittsburgh (Northgate)
- **Christina Trocchio**, Oakdale (St. Malachy)
- **Alexandria Veneziano**, Cranberry Twp. (Seneca)

The Youth Finale of the 2014 Kean Quest Talent Search capped off the 11<sup>th</sup> season of the four month fundraising competition that began in January. A separate contest was held for Kean Quest adult vocalists. All told, more than 175 singing acts took to the Kean Theatre stage. Proceeds from sponsorships and ticket sales benefitted the St. Barnabas Free Care Fund. In 2013 alone, the Free Care Fund provided nearly \$6 million to needy residents at St. Barnabas Nursing Home, Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas and The Arbors at St Barnabas who otherwise would not be able to afford their care.

## About St. Barnabas

St. Barnabas Health System is Pennsylvania's largest health care concern of its kind. In its 114th year, St. Barnabas is like no other - diverse and expansive - meeting the needs of young retirees through those who require hospice. St. Barnabas' spectrum of care includes four retirement communities, three living assistance facilities, two skilled nursing homes, and a community outpatient medical center. Providing more than \$6 million in free care annually, St. Barnabas engages in innovative methods to raise money for its Free Care Fund such as The Jackie Evancho award in its Kean Quest Talent Search, The Kean Theatre, The Crystal Conservatories, Rudolph Auto Repair and Beautiful Buys. For more information on St. Barnabas visit [www.stbarnabashealthsystem.com](http://www.stbarnabashealthsystem.com).

Photos by St. Barnabas.



*Cutline information: Gabby Barrett, of Pittsburgh, takes home Kean Quest trophy with the high score from the judges at the Kean Quest Talent Search Youth Finale held Friday, April 11, 2014 at the Kean Theatre.*



*Cutline information (l to r): Gibsonia's own singing sensation, Jackie Evancho, presented Maura Yates (Franklin Park) with the fourth annual "Jackie Evancho Award" during the Kean Quest Talent Search Youth Finale held Friday, April 11, 2014 at the Kean Theatre.*



*Cutline information (l to r): Cortney MacKay (Hubbard, Ohio) first runner-up; Gabby Barrett (Pittsburgh) Judges' Choice winner; Maura Yates (Franklin Park) "Jackie Evancho Award" winner; Jake Pedersen (Gibsonia), Audience Choice winner; and Shailen Abram (Pittsburgh) second runner-up in the Kean Quest Talent Search Youth Finale held Friday, April 11, 2014 at the Kean Theatre.*