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## Omaha student recognized in “Spotlight on Student Achievement in the Arts”



Omaha, NE – Nebraskans for the Arts proudly announces Yasmeen Bora, an Omaha resident, has been chosen as the organization’s “Spotlight on Student Achievement in the Arts” for February 2012.

Bora, a junior at Millard North High School, performs as the concertmaster for Omaha Area Youth Orchestras’ Youth Symphony, its most prestigious ensemble. Additionally, she was chosen as concertmaster for the 2011 Nebraska All State Orchestra. She has performed solos with Omaha Symphony and Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra. She will solo with Orchestra Omaha this year, as she won both of their young artist awards. Bora has performed with the Millard North High School Freshman Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Alternative Styles Orchestra. She also earned the lead role as Ronette in the MNHS production of “Little Shop of Horrors.” Bora sings alto with ensembles at the Omaha Conservatory of Music.

She says, “I can’t imagine *not* playing the violin – it’s probably one of the most important things I do. It means a lot to me and most of my time is spent pursuing this activity.” Bora has been playing the violin since she was three years old; her favorite piece to play presently is “Tzigane” by Ravel.

Bora’s educators and directors think quite highly of her. Aviva Segall, music director for Omaha Area Youth Orchestra and Bora’s nominator, states her pride in the award recipient. She says, “Yasmeen is both an excellent musician and true leader. She leads by example, works hard and encourages others rather than using her talents to elevate herself. She is a delightful young woman and deserving of this recognition.”

“Yasmeen is a consummate musician. She plays with technical prowess and exuberant joy. Although she has garnered many awards and honors from her work as a violinist, Yasmeen is still a humble and willing learner who brings her whole self to each rehearsal and performance experience. She leads with humor and dedication and has earned the respect of her peers,” expressed Millard North High School’s Director of Orchestras, Debbie Martinez.

Additionally, Professor William Wolcott, Bora’s private instructor since she was five, described her: “Yasmeen is extremely talented and is very focused. She exhibits a kind of emotional intensity, fire, and passion seen only in great artists.”

Nebraskans for the Arts regularly recognizes “Student Spotlight” recipients in their communities as well as with their state legislators, principals and school boards. The organization, the state’s advocacy membership organization for public arts funding, also dually serves as its alliance for arts education. Nebraskans for the Arts, in its desire to underscore the importance of arts education, sincerely thanks each of these students’ arts educators for the crucial role they have played in helping young adults build upon their talents through careful training.

Nominations for “Spotlight on Student Achievement in the Arts” are received through a survey found on the Nebraskans for the Arts website, [www.nebraskansforthearts.org](http://www.nebraskansforthearts.org).

### About Nebraskans for the Arts:

Nebraskans for the Arts is a non-profit membership organization. NFTA promotes the advancement of learning in and through the arts for all Nebraska residents and is committed to promoting the arts to federal, state and local policymakers. More information can be found at [www.nebraskansforthearts.org](http://www.nebraskansforthearts.org).

*Member of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network and Americans for the Arts state affiliate*

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