



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Photo attached

**Notables Singers Awards Music Scholarships to High School Seniors from
Morristown and West Morris Mendham**

(Basking Ridge, N.J.) – Two local high school seniors – Gloria Bangiola from Morristown High School and Jennifer Nicole Soranno from West Morris Mendham High School – have been selected as the recipients of the 2011 Notables Singers Scholarship Awards. Both plan to continue their musical studies in college this September.

Bangiola will be attending the Jacob School of Music at Indiana University, in Bloomington, Ind., and Soranno will be attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. Bangiola plans to eventually use her knowledge of singing and music theory to teach others. Soranno aspires to learn more about songwriting and managing her career through the commercial voice with her emphasis in a music business major.

The two received their awards on June 13 at Ridge Oak Senior Housing, in Basking Ridge, in conjunction with Notables' performance for the residents.

"For the third year now, we are so pleased to present our annual scholarships and this year to these two very talented young women," says Ellen Heffes, of Basking Ridge, who is the founder and director of Notables. The group, which was formed in 2004, is comprised of about 20 women who sing *America's Favorite Music* in sounds in Broadway, jazz, and pop and who perform at a variety of venues primarily in Morris and Somerset counties.

For the third year, says Heffes, "we are grateful to the community for supporting our work to help raise funds to allow the presentation of the awards again this year and expect our program to grow." She adds that Notables choose to present the awards at Ridge Oak since the singers rehearse there in the community room from September to June.

The two students were selected from entries submitted by high school students in Morris and Somerset counties. Application forms were sent to all high schools in Morris and Somerset, and applicants were asked to submit CDs that demonstrated their vocal

talent, as well as recommendations from individuals familiar with their abilities. Semi-finalists were then invited to attend in-person auditions.

Bangiola says her relationship with music began at a young age. In fact, she says, "I cannot recall a time when music and singing were not a part of my life."

Soranno says she knew since she was old enough to understand what music is that she wanted to be involved with it. "I learned how much I loved singing on stage ever since kindergarten and how much I enjoyed expressing myself through music."

Applications were reviewed by Notables Musical Director Barbara Cornelia, of Mt. Arlington, and the Notables Scholarship Committee consisting of Chairperson, Dr. Gerry O'Connor, of Mendham, Alberta Hornyak, of Basking Ridge, and Loretta Zupa, of Morristown.

Cornelia says: "Having been involved with music my entire life, it gives me great pleasure to be involved in the critiquing of these talented vocal applicants. It is always a pleasure to see gifted students who will be moving on with their careers in music and help to keep the gift of music alive."

O'Connor concurs, noting that "the quality of students majoring in the arts today gives us hope that we can look forward to some great performances in the future." It is encouraging, she adds, "to see students who demonstrate such passion and dedication to continuing their studies in the field of music. "

Notables Singers, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization comprised of volunteer singers that perform *America's Favorite Music* in sounds in Broadway, jazz and pop for audiences primarily in central New Jersey – Morris and Somerset counties. See the website at www.NotablesSingers.org for information on the scholarship program, bookings and group and performance schedules.

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