

# Matthew Allen, Third Prize Cello

## *2009 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players*

**Matthew Allen, 17**, is from Tallahassee, Florida. He began studying cello at the age of four. Mr. Allen currently studies with **Greg Sauer** at Florida State University, and **Hans Jorgen-Jensen** at the Meadowmount School of Music. His former teachers include David Bjella, Owen Carman, and Lubomir Georgiev.

In addition to winning Third Prize Cello at the 2009 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players, Mr. Allen won First Prize in the 2009 ASTA National Solo Competition. In addition, he won the Grand Prize in the 2008 LaGrange Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition, the Gold Medal in the 2008 Stulberg International String Competition, Second Prize in the 2008 Blount-Slawson Young Artist Competition, and the Grand Prize in the 2007 Cobb Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition.

Mr. Allen served as principal cellist of the Big Bend Community Orchestra from 2002-2005, first serving in that capacity at age ten. In 2005 (at 13), Matthew became the youngest member selected to the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra (Miriam Burns, Music Director) and achieved tenure status in 2006. He has performed in master classes for Janos Starker, Andres Diaz, Zuill Bailey and Matt Haimovitz. Mr. Allen has appeared as soloist with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Big Bend Community Orchestra, the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, the Cobb Symphony Orchestra, and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

Mr. Allen has attended the Florida State University String Orchestra Camp, the Young



Artists Programme at the University of Ottawa, and the Meadowmount School of Music. He has studied chamber music with Pinchas Zukerman, Michael Tree, Beth Newdome, Melissa Kraut, Patricia McCarty, members of the Audubon String Quartet, and members of the Meadowmount Trio.

In 2008, Mr. Allen recorded the Popper *Hungarian Rhapsody* for TELARC Records, which will be released as “From the Top Greatest All-Stars” in August, 2009.