



*creating the future  
through arts education*



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## **Local Students Selected to Participate in ArtsBridge Foundation's S.T.A.R. Council and 2015 Shuler Ensemble Cast**

*88 students representing 40 schools in 16 Georgia counties will display  
their music theater talents on April 23*

**ATLANTA** - (March 26, 2015) – ArtsBridge Foundation, the arts education outreach arm of the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, today announced the 20 members of its 2015 S.T.A.R (Students Take A Role) Council and the 68 performers who will comprise the Shuler Student Ensemble for the 2015 Georgia High School Musical Theater Awards – Shuler Hensley Awards to be held on April 23.

The S.T.A.R. Council gives technical theater students a professional and educational experience in theater and television production. S.T.A.R. Council students are nominated by their high school theater director and must display leadership, dedication, and a strong work ethic within their high school theater program. The S.T.A.R. Council, which is comprised of students from participating Shuler high schools, is invited to participate in several exclusive, behind-the-scenes events throughout the season. The main highlight for S.T.A.R. Council participants is serving as Production Assistants during Shuler Awards week in April where they will work alongside the programs' professional designers and technicians to gain valuable experience.

"Working with the cast and production crew of the Shuler Awards has opened doors to many new experiences and opportunities for me," commented S.T.A.R. Council Member Andrew Yarbrow, a student at Lambert High School. "I have been able to work and learn from professional artists and technicians, which has given me knowledge that I can take back and apply to my school's musical productions."

The Shuler Student Ensemble will feature 68 talented young men and women representing public and private schools throughout the state of Georgia. These students, who were nominated by their high school directors, will perform the opening and finale production numbers during the Shuler Awards. The Ensemble students will be taught by a team that includes a professional director, choreographer, music director and Tony Award winner Shuler Hensley.

“I have had the pleasure of mentoring, performing with, and ultimately being inspired by the talented musical theater students who participate in the annual Georgia High School Music Theater Awards – Shuler Hensley Awards,” said actor Shuler Hensley. “For six years, I have observed firsthand how one moment on stage can change a child’s life. I have remained in contact with many students who have participated in the program over the years. All of them emphasize how important the experience was to their development as future artists and arts supporters. Being part of this program from its inception has been the most rewarding honor of my career.”

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Shuler Hensley Awards, fashioned after Broadway’s Tony Awards, celebrate excellence in high school musical theater. The awards are a program of the ArtsBridge Foundation, which provides quality performing arts education programs designed to engage and motivate the next generation of artists and art supporters.

The Shuler Awards will be held on April 23, 2015 at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. The Red Carpet Event begins at 6:30 p.m. and curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale for \$22.00 each. Tickets may be purchased through [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com), any Ticketmaster outlet, by calling 800-653-8000, or purchased in-person at the Bank of North Georgia Box Office at the Cobb Energy Centre on Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The box office is located at 2800 Cobb Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA.

For a complete list of the S.T.A.R. Council members, visit <http://artsbridgega.org/programs/shuler-awards/participating-schools/s-t-a-r-council/> and for a full list of Shuler Ensemble Members, visit <http://artsbridgega.org/programs/shuler-awards/participating-schools/shulerstudentensemble/>. To learn more about the Shuler Hensley Awards, visit [artsbridgega.org/programs/shuler-awards/](http://artsbridgega.org/programs/shuler-awards/) or call (770) 916.2800. To learn more about ArtsBridge, visit <http://artsbridgega.org/>.

#### **About ArtsBridge Foundation**

ArtsBridge Foundation, formerly the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre Foundation, is dedicated to providing quality arts education and community engagement programs that engage, motivate, inspire, and elevate the

next generation of artists and arts supporters. ArtsBridge forms connections with students in grades K-12 by providing arts education opportunities through field trip programs to the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, master class workshops, artists-in-schools, and the annual Georgia High School Musical Theater Awards – The Shuler Hensley Awards. Since our inception in 2007, ArtsBridge has served more than 240,000 students and educators from 30 Georgia counties, plus students from Alabama, Tennessee, Florida and South Carolina. To learn more, visit <http://artsbridgega.org> and follow us on Twitter at @ArtsbridgeGA and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ArtsBridgeGa](http://www.facebook.com/ArtsBridgeGa).

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