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## Violinist Anna Jane Lester '09 Named Concertmaster of Florida All-State Symphony Orchestra

January 14, 2008, Jacksonville, Florida—Episcopal High School junior Anna Jane Lester was selected as concertmaster of the Florida All-State Symphony Orchestra at the Florida Music Educators' Association annual conference held in Tampa, Florida, January 9-12. The All-State Orchestra is comprised of the top student musicians from all Florida schools who were selected to participate based on statewide auditions held during the fall.

This is Anna Jane's third year as a selected member of the All-State Orchestra. This year, she won the seat of concertmaster for the Grades 11-12 orchestra based upon her January 10th seating audition. As concertmaster, she was responsible for leading the tuning of the orchestra, communicating with and observing the conductor for the rest of the section to follow, making some bowing decisions for the strings, and receiving applause on behalf of the orchestra at the beginning of the concert. At its January 12th concert in Tampa, the All-State Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Anthony Elliot of the University of Michigan, performed "Mars," "Saturn," and "Jupiter" from Gustav Holst's work *The Planets*, as well as a selection with the All-State Women's Chorus.

Mary Helen Solomon, Episcopal's fine arts chair and director of choral and Orff studies, said of Lester's honor, "Anna Jane brings a level of sophistication and brilliance to her playing that always delights her audiences. Our department is thrilled with her remarkable achievement, especially since she was a younger member of this prestigious group." Anna Jane added, "It was very challenging, but rewarding. Everyone there was amazing and talented, so it was a lot of fun to be part of it."

Anna Jane has studied violin since the age of four. She is currently concertmaster of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra's Philharmonic Orchestra, and she also plays flute in the JSYO's Repertory Orchestra. In May 2007 Anna won the JSYO Young Artist's Competition, performing the violin solo *Romance in F Minor* by Antonin Dvořák, accompanied by the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Anna has been on the Headmaster's List every quarter, earned a varsity letter as a member of the Episcopal girls weightlifting team, participated with the JV cross country team this past season, and has accumulated more than 400 hours of community service.

For more information, please contact Episcopal High School.

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