



Cheyenne Mountain Senior Releases First Music CD

(Colorado Springs, CO; Apr 9, 2004). Cheyenne Mountain High School Senior, Spencer Wagner, has just released his first music CD recording entitled "The Classic Accordion." Spencer has been a featured performer in the Cheyenne Mountain High School Talent Show and Open Mic Nights for the past four years, and performed at the Broadmoor Hotel last summer. He also claimed the top honors in the Rocky Mountain Accordion Society competition in Denver last summer placing first in the Open Virtuoso, Virtuoso Royalty and Senior Virtuoso categories.

The CD features a collection of ten popular international pieces arranged for solo accordion performance. The music ranges in style and tempo from the high energy and driving beat of *Sabre Dance* from the 1942 Russian folk ballet *Gayne*, to the romantic melodies of the French love song *Domino*, which hit the top of the pop charts in 1951 behind the vocals of American heart-throb Tony Martin.

Spencer had the privilege of working with a number of local music professionals in producing the recording. It started with Dan Christian, his accordion instructor with the Young Musicians of America, who assisted Spencer in selecting the songs for his recording and perfecting them for recording. Next was the recording process itself. "I was fortunate to be able to work with John August Schroeter and Paul Schwotzer who

have the latest recording equipment and have worked with some of the best guitar musicians in the area and in the country” said Spencer. “I think they enjoyed the challenge of recording the accordion which was new and different for them.”

Finally, there was the CD publishing phase of the project. Publishing a music CD can cost thousands of dollars—especially for all the graphics that go with the CD jacket and notes, not to mention the cost of manufacturing 1,000 CD, which is usually the minimum order. But Spencer was referred to Brad Hartman with SpeakOut! Productions, a local small business located about a mile from CMHS on Cheyenne Road. Hartman realized there was a niche recording market for new artists and local groups, and Brown Box Music (www.brownboxmusic.com) was born. The basic jacket artwork is the same for each CD and can be quickly customized for each project. The musician fills out a form with the recording information, hands over the music files, and a few days later he has 100 CD’s at a much lower initial cost than the traditional approach. One last dilemma was left to be solved. Spencer had pages of notes with interesting background information for each song. The answer, of course, was his own website.

Spencer was recently named a National Merit Finalist and has been accepted at Lamont School of Music at Denver University. He has accepted the DU Alumni Scholarship to continue his studies in both Mathematics and Music as part of the DU Honors Program. Lamont is one of the few music schools in the country that offers a program for advanced musical study on the accordion. So while this is Spencer’s first CD, it may not be his last.

Spencer will perform for the final time at CMHS at the Talent Show Wednesday evening April 14th. Copies of Spencer’s new CD can be ordered online at www.spencerwagner.com.

###