



## Open Competition Award Winner 2025



The 2025 Open Competition Award Winner is Groovin++// (Baske Afire x Hey Hallelujah) a 14-year-old Arabian Bay Gelding owned by Caitlin Heinz.

In 2013, Caitlin purchased Groovin as a two year old from Strawberry Banks Farm. Caitlin showed him in the 2 year old sport horse in hand class at Sport Horse nationals that same year and ended up winning the class. Shortly after that Caitlin started training him for dressage and began competing with him in open dressage USDF shows in 2016. He has quickly excelled through the levels in his career. And in 2025, he showed in Prix St Georges and Intermediate I levels with Caitlin working towards the Grand Prix level.

Although, Groovin has earned several titles at AHA regional and national level shows. Most of their show season is competing at open dressage shows, including several USDF regional shows and National Dressage Pony Cup the last two years and placing very well against other riders in the FEI levels. He has received multiple championships and won Arabian Sport Horse Alliance Awards. Caitlin describes Groovin as a horse who welcomes challenges and when you watch him, he always presents a “look at me” attitude and appears happy to be doing his job. Being born in a primarily saddleseat barn, he didn’t meet the criteria for a career in main ring and started as a diamond in the rough but has fully blossomed now.



Groovin has been used at Breyerfest as one of the main dressage representatives, representing the Arabian breed very well and proudly wearing one of his many Sport Horse National rose garlands. Caitlin recently learned that Groovin is the leading offspring of Baske Afire, who has sired over 1,000 foals. In 2019, Groovin and Caitlin won the USDF High Score Breed Award for the Adult Amateur division National level.



Groovin truly represents the Arabian breed well in the open dressage circuit showing his trainability, heart, talent and beauty. Caitlin and Groovin's story has inspired many other equestrians through their determination and harmony in partnership they can overcome any challenge set before them.

Congratulations again to Groovin++// and Caitlin Heinz! Thank you for sharing your amazing gelding with the world to help advocate for the Arabian breed!

