

**GUILDLINES AND INFORMATION**

**THE DONALD W. WOOD SR. VOCAL COMPETITION  
PRESENTED BY THE NEW ORLEANS OPERA ASSOCIATION,  
A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH LOYOLA UNIVERSITY,  
TULANE UNIVERSITY, AND THE NEW ORLEANS CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS**

**1. PARTICIPANTS**

Any Louisiana high school student in their sophomore, junior, or senior year as of October 15, 2017, may apply to participate in the Donald W. Wood Sr. Vocal Competition (the “Wood Competition”) with approximately 25 students chosen to participate (the “Finalists”). Finalists will be citizens of the United States and may be asked to provide a copy of their social security card.

**2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Wood Competition is to promote artistic excellence, provide financial support to young vocalists, and encourage young local singers in vocal music.

**3. WINNING**

One male and one female vocalist will be awarded first place and receive a prize of \$1,000 each. Second place will also be awarded, with a prize of \$500 each. An award for honorable mention may also be given.

**4. SCHEDULE/DEADLINES FOR 2017-2018-2017 WOOD COMPETITION**

<b>Completed Student Application Deadline Date (Send by email only)</b>	<b>Midnight, Wednesday, September 6, 2017</b>  <b>Deadline must be sent by email to <u><a href="mailto:woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org">woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org</a></u> No later than midnight, Wednesday, September 6, 2017 (If you are unable to send a submission by email, please contact the Wood Competition Director, Debby Wood at (504) 931-3608</b>
<b>Naming by email and Facebook (approximately 25 Finalists) of the New Orleans Opera Association</b>	<b>Friday, September 22, 2017</b>
<b>Wood Competition Date</b>	<b>Sunday, October 15, 2017</b>
<b>Wood Competition Time</b>	<b>Check in at 12:30 PM Wood Competition begins at 1 PM Sharp</b>
<b>Wood Competition Location</b>	<b>Tulane University Dixon Annex Recital Hall</b>

**5. COMPETITION DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION**

The date of the Wood Competition is **Sunday, October 15, 2017.**

**Check-in will be at 12:30 PM** with the Wood Competition **beginning promptly at 1:00 PM.** The Wood Competition is free and open to the public and should end by 5 PM.

The location of the Wood Competition:

TULANE UNIVERSITY DIXON ANNEX RECITAL HALL

Address: 102 Dixon Hall

Tulane University

New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-5683

School Phone: (504) 865-5267

## 6. CERTIFICATES

The Certificates (created by the New Orleans Opera Association) are broken down as follows:

Approximately 25 participating students	Receive a Finalist Certificate (handed out day of Wood Competition)
Round 2 Winners	Receive a Semi-Finalist Certificate (Mailed approximately two weeks after Wood Competition)
Winners	Receive a Winner Certificate (Mailed approximately two weeks after Wood Competition)
Honorable Mention	Receives an Honorable Mention Certificate (Mailed approximately two weeks after Wood Competition)

All Certificates except the Finalist Certificate will be mailed out from NOOA to the participating student's home approximately 2 weeks after the Wood Competition.

## 7. FREQUENCY OF WOOD COMPETITION

Yearly. Winners from previous seasons may compete as long as they meet the criteria of being a sophomore, junior, or senior in high school as of October 15, 2017.

## 8. VOCAL MUSIC SUBMISSION TYPE

On the date of the Wood Competition, each Finalist (students who are chosen to participate in the Wood Competition) should be prepared to sing three songs in Italian, French, German, or English. However, **only one** selection out of the three songs may be in English and that same song in English may be from a musical. When choosing your songs, think *operatic* not *musical Theater*.

Round 1: (All Finalists): Sing strongest and shortest-in-length song. All Finalists will sing. Judges may also ask you to sing a portion of one of your three songs so be prepared to possibly sing all three.

Round 2 (Anywhere from 9-12 students will be chosen from Round 1 to sing in Round 2): Round 2 singers (Semi-Finalists) should be ready to sing their most technically difficult and most impressive song. Any questions regarding choice of song, please contact Mrs. Wood at (504) 391-3608 or email [WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org](mailto:WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org).

## 9. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

**Application submission by email deadline is by midnight, Wednesday, September 6, 2017.**

Students who apply and are chosen to participate (Finalists) must submit their application by email to [woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org](mailto:woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org) and their email must be emailed with the date not later than midnight, September 6, 2017. Submit completed application, copy of printed music of each song, a one to three-minute audio recording without accompaniment or with piano accompaniment only in MP3, MP4 or M4A format or a YouTube video or other safe Internet site, and non-refundable application fee either by mail or credit card.

Send a non-refundable \$35 check (payable to the **New Orleans Opera Association** and in the Memo, write "**Wood Competition**" and **add the name of the student on your check**) and mail to:

New Orleans Opera Association  
Attention: Kelli Nettles, Business Manager,  
935 Gravier Street, Suite 1940  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

*The non-refundable check must be mailed in an envelope with the envelope having a post-mark no later than midnight, Wednesday, September 6, 2017. All credit card payments are non-refundable and must*

be made by 4:30 on Wednesday, September 6, 2017. For credit card payments, call Kelli Nettles, Business Manager for the New Orleans Opera Association at (504) 265-9527. All students may submit applications at any time, however, the application and application attachments must be emailed with a send date by **midnight, Wednesday September 6, 2017. Those calling in credit card payments must do so no later than 4:30 PM, Wednesday, September 6, 2017.**

**10. JUDGES**

Judges will be professionals in the field of opera and will vary in number from 3 to 5. Judging will be based on quality of voice, musicality, technical skill, diction, interpretation, and presentation. Judges may give constructive feedback to the Finalists on their performances at the Wood Competition. This feedback will either be mailed or given to the Finalists on the day of the Wood Competition. Also, all Finalists will be given numbers and not names on the day of the Wood Competition for the purpose of objective analysis by the judges.

**11. ACCOMPANIST**

For those needing an accompanist on the day of the Wood Competition, the official Wood Competition accompanist will be provided at no charge to you. You may provide your own pianist if desired, at your own expense, **but whether you need or do not need the official Wood Competition accompanist, it must be noted on your submitted application and all music turned in by midnight, September 6, 2017.** Practicing with the official Wood Competition accompanist will be considered for scheduling prior to the Wood Competition.

**12. TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Travel expenses to the Wood Competition are the responsibility of each chosen participant.

**13. CHANGE IN REPERTOIRE**

Finalists may request changes in repertoire once accepted to the Wood Competition, however, there will be **no changes in repertoire after midnight, October 1, 2017.** Send your changes in repertoire by email before midnight, October 1, 2017, to: [WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org](mailto:WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org) and attach your new music and list your three songs in the email. You must be very clear here. Don't assume that the Competition Director knows what songs you are replacing.

**14. AWARDS AND WINNER CATEGORIES**

At the end of the Wood Competition the following will be announced:

Winners (Male and Female) will receive \$1,000 each

Semi-Finalists (Male and Female) will receive \$500 each

Honorable Mention(s) will receive \$250 each

Prize money will be in the form of a check given to the winners at the end of the Wood Competition.

**15. REQUIEMENT OF WINNERS**

Winners may participate in a possible recital with other winners or be present at a New Orleans Opera event and/or participate in other events requested by the New Orleans Opera Association, Tulane University, Loyola University, and/or the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts.

**16. PUBLICITY**

By submitting their application to the Wood Competition, Finalists grant the New Orleans Opera Association permission to use their photographs, video/audio recording or photographs while at the Wood Competition for promotional purposes on websites of the New Orleans Opera Association, Tulane University, Loyola University, and/or the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts.

**17. OTHER INFORMATION**

The Wood Competition is open to the public and free of any charge.

**18. WHAT TO SEND BY EMAIL TO [WOODCOMPETITION@NEWORLEANSOPERA.ORG](mailto:WOODCOMPETITION@NEWORLEANSOPERA.ORG) by MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017:**

A. Completed Wood Competition Application Form (2017-2018)

Attach the following:

1. Clear and easy-to-read copy of printed music of each song.
2. A one to three-minute audio recording without accompaniment or with piano accompaniment only in MP3, MP4, M4A format, or a YouTube video or other safe Internet site format.
3. Photocopy of student ID, driver's license, or passport.
4. Note in email whether you are mailing \$35 non-refundable fee or calling the opera office to charge your \$35 non-refundable fee.

B. Mailing the non-refundable \$35 application fee (payable to the New Orleans Opera Association – **in the memo write Wood Competition and add student name**). **If you forget to add the student's name, we may have trouble in connecting the student to the check and the application may be invalid.**

Check must be mailed in an envelope with a postmark no later than midnight, Wednesday, September 6, 2017.

C. To charge the \$35 non-refundable fee over the phone, call Kelli Nettles with the New Orleans Opera Association at (504) 267-9527 no later than Wednesday, September 6, 2017, at 4:30 PM. Make certain in your submission email, you mention the method you paid your non-refundable application fee (whether it was mailed or called in credit card).

**19. WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS**

Applicants should mail their completed application submissions to the following:

Email: [WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org](mailto:WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org)

You will get an email confirming receipt of your application.

**20. HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOU WILL GET TO COMPETE?**

Emails will go out to student applicants on Friday, September 22, 2017, listing all students chosen as Finalists. This list will also be posted on the Donald W. Wood Sr. Vocal Competition Facebook page.

**20. QUESTIONS?**

Should you have any questions you may send an email to Debby Wood, Wood Competition Director at [WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org](mailto:WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org) or call (504) 267-9537 or (504) 931-3608

You may also email [Education@neworleansopera.org](mailto:Education@neworleansopera.org) or call (504) 529-2278, extension 235