

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

THE DONALD W. WOOD SR. VOCAL COMPETITION

FIFTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**PRESENTED BY THE NEW ORLEANS OPERA ASSOCIATION,
A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS
TULANE UNIVERSITY, AND THE NEW ORLEANS CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS**

1. SCHEDULE/DEADLINES FOR 2019-2020 WOOD COMPETITION

Completed Student Application Deadline Date (Send by email only)	Midnight, Tuesday, September 10, 2019 Deadline must be sent by email to woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org If you are unable to send a submission by email, please contact the Wood Competition Director, Debby Wood at (504) 931-3608
Naming by email and Facebook (approximately 25 Finalists) of the 2019-2020 Wood Competition	Wednesday, October 2, 2019
New Orleans Opera Association's Wood Competition Date	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019
Wood Competition Time	Check in at 12:30 PM Wood Competition begins at 1 PM Sharp
Wood Competition Location	Freda Lupin Memorial Hall New Orleans Center for Creative Arts 2800 Chartres Street New Orleans, Louisiana. USA 70117 School phone: (504) 940-2986

2. PARTICIPANTS

Any Louisiana high school student in their sophomore, junior, or senior year as of October 26, 2019, 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 must be citizens of the United States and may be asked to provide a copy of their social security card.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. COMPETITION DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

The date of the Wood Competition is **Saturday, October 26, 2019.**

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:

FREDA LUPIN MEMORIAL HALL

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts

2800 Chartres Street

New Orleans, Louisiana USA 70117

School Phone: (504) 910-2986

6. FREQUENCY OF WOOD COMPETITION

The Wood Competition is held 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 26, 2019.

7. 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 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.

8. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application submission by email deadline is by midnight, Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

Students who apply and are chosen to participate (Finalists) must submit their application by email to woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org and their email must be sent with the date not later than midnight, Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Complete the application form found at <http://neworleansopera.org/> Click on 'Education' then 'Wood Vocal Competition'. You will find the Application on the right-hand side of the page. Click on 'Application'. Fill in the blanks for your application and then submit.

NOTE: Please do not send your music in the same email as your application and make certain your name is listed on your music submission email.

Submit your completed two-page application, copy of printed music of each song (in a separate email and include your name in that email), 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 (include your name in this submission), and non-refundable application fee either by mail or credit card (include "Wood Competition and your name on the check, or make certain Gina Klein has your name if it is a called-in credit card payment).

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

New Orleans Opera Association
Attention: Gina Klein, Business Manager,
935 Gravier Street, Suite 1940
New Orleans, Louisiana USA 70112

*The non-refundable check must be mailed in an envelope with the envelope having a post-mark no later than midnight, Tuesday, September 10, 2019. All credit card payments are non-refundable and must be made by 4:30 on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. For credit card payments, call Gina Klein, 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, Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Those calling in credit card payments must do so no later than 4:30 PM, Tuesday, September 10, 2019.***

9. 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.

10. 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 must be turned in by midnight, September 10, 2019.** *(See page 2 of the application wherein it states: “I will use the Wood accompanist at the Competition YES_____ or NO_____. Please check off either “yes” or “no.”) as well as “I have my own accompanist for the Competition YES_____ or NO_____. Please check off either “yes” or “no.”)*

Practicing with the official Wood Competition accompanist will be considered for scheduling prior to the Wood Competition. However, the official accompanist will not coach you in any way. They will only play while you sing. You will need to establish with the accompanist (before singing) the tempo of your song.

11. TRAVEL EXPENSES

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

12. 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, Thursday, October 10, 2019.*** Send your changes in repertoire by email before midnight, Thursday, October 10, 2019, to: woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org and attach your new music and list your three songs in a separate email. *Make certain your name is included in the email as well as what songs you are replacing.* You must be very clear here.

Don't assume that the Competition Director knows what songs you are replacing.

13. AWARDS AND WINNER CATEGORIES

At the end of the Wood Competition the following will be announced in this order:

- (Honorable Mention) if applicable (awarded \$250)
- Second Place Female (awarded \$500)
- Second Place Male (awarded \$500)
- First Place Female (awarded \$1,000)
- First Place Male (awarded \$1,000)

Prize money will be in the form of a check given to the winners on October 26, 2019, at the closing of the Wood Competition.

14. 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 one month after Wood Competition)
Winners	Receive a Winner Certificate (Mailed approximately one month after Wood Competition)
Honorable Mention	Receives an Honorable Mention Certificate (Mailed approximately one month after Wood Competition)

All Certificates except the Finalist Certificate will be sent via regular mail to the participating student's home approximately one month after the Wood Competition.

15. REQUIREMENT 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 by MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019:

A. Completed Wood Competition Application Form (2019-2020) (Send by email or complete the three-page application online at <http://neworleansopera.org>).

Attach the following:

1. Clear and easy-to-read copy of printed music of each song (in a separate email from the application.) Make certain your name is on your music email.
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, Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

- C. To charge the \$35 non-refundable fee over the phone, call Gina Klein with the New Orleans Opera Association at (504) 267-9527 no later than Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 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 may complete their three-page application online at <http://neworleansopera.org> Click on ‘Education’ then ‘Wood Competition’. You will find the Application on the right-hand side of the page. Click on ‘Application’. Fill in the blanks for your application and then submit. Send photo ID, music, and audio submission by email to woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org no later than midnight, Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Music should be in a separate email from the audio and the photo ID. *Please make certain student’s name is listed on all emails.*

Email: 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 each student applicant on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, listing all students chosen as Finalists. This list will also be posted on the Donald W. Wood Sr. Vocal Competition Facebook page.

21. QUESTIONS?

Debby Wood, Wood Competition Director (504) 931-3608 or
Email: music225@gmail.com

William Mouat, Education Director (504) 267-9535 or
Email: Education@neworleansopera.org

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UPDATED 5/20/2019