

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

THE 2020-2021 DONALD W. WOOD SR. VOCAL COMPETITION

SIXTH 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

**NOTE: OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION
AND FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE,**

THE WOOD COMPETITION WILL BE VIRTUAL THIS SEASON.

**There will be no Round 1 or 2. All submissions will be judged and winners will
be announced on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 10 AM**

WE ARE WAIVING ALL APPLICATION FEES

1. SCHEDULE/DEADLINES FOR 2020-2021 WOOD COMPETITION

<p>Completed Student Application Deadline Date for Online Application Submission and Audio/Video Submissions</p>	<p>DEADLINE: Midnight, Tuesday, September 8, 2020</p> <p>Online application found at https://neworleansopera.org/education/donald-w-wood-sr-vocal-competition/</p> <p>Audio/visuals must be sent by email to <u>woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org</u></p> <p>If you are unable to send a submission by email, or submit an online form please contact the Wood Competition Director, Debby Wood at (504) 931-3608</p>
<p>ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS OF THE WOOD COMPETITION (via a direct email to winners and their voice teacher(s) and announcement on Facebook)</p>	<p><i>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2020, by 10 AM</i></p>

2. PARTICIPANTS

Any Louisiana high school student in their sophomore, junior, or senior year as of October 24, 2020, may apply to participate in the Donald W. Wood Sr. Vocal Competition (the “Wood Competition”). Applicants 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. 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 24, 2020.

5. 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. One or more awards for honorable mentions may also be given.

6. THE 2020-2021 WOOD COMPETITION IS VIRTUAL

Announcement of winners will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2020, by 10 AM by email to the winners and their vocal instructors.

Announcement will also be made on the Wood Competition Facebook page and will be placed on the New Orleans Opera Association website.

7. APPLICATION

Complete the online application on the New Orleans Opera Association website found here: <https://neworleansopera.org/education/donald-w-wood-sr-vocal-competition/>

Don't forget to click on the red button that reads: “Click here to SUBMIT Application.” NOTE: Do not send your music.

8. WOOD COMPETITION VOCAL MUSIC REQUIREMENTS

Please follow all requirements related to your Wood Competition Application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements listed below may result in disqualification during the review process and/or make your application ineligible for an award.

A. Application Requirements

1. All audition selections must be performed from memory, without sheet music.

2. Selections should show the singer's vocal strengths.

B. Submitting Requirements

Send an email to WoodCompetition@NewOrleansOpera.org a total of three (3) individual digital recordings with at least one of the recordings to include video (*See video requirements below*). (All three may be audio with visual. You may announce the composer and song.)

Please include the following in the following order:

1. One (1) song or aria in French, German, Italian, or any other language other than English. This selection may come from an opera, operetta, oratorio, or may be an art song. *No musical theater selections will be allowed.*
2. One (1) art song in a language other than English.
3. Only one (1) art song in English from any time period. No musical theater or operatic repertoire allowed for this selection. Composition should be originally written for voice and piano.

C. Accompaniment Requirements

1. Record your audition with or without live piano accompaniment.

If you are not able to produce a recording with live accompaniment due to COVID-19, you may use pre-recorded piano accompaniment. (No synthesized orchestras permitted.)

You may obtain a pianist to record your songs and then sing and record over that accompaniment. Please contact William Mouat at education@neworleansopera.org or Jesse Reeks via email: jessefranklinreeks@gmail.com (Mr. Reeks will provide high quality piano accompaniments for a very reasonable fee, which students can negotiate.)

2. Make certain the level of your piano accompaniment does not overpower the sound of your voice in the recording.

D. Guidelines for Recording Your Audition

1. Dress appropriately as you would for a live audition.

2. Use a fixed point of view for your camera. Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one location.
3. Please be sure your image is clear. The Wood Competition judges must be able to see your facial expressions to properly adjudicate your work.
4. Ensure recording captures optimum quality image.
5. Ensure recording equipment has the ability to capture professional level sound quality. Check for good balance and blend.
6. No sound enhancements are allowed.
7. No music stands or sheet music.
8. Before recording your pieces, film a test. Perform the first few lines of one of your selections, then watch and listen to it on playback. Check the following important things:

a. Sound

Make certain the acoustics in the room are suitable for a recording. Practice your piece in the space. Please ensure the balance between piano and voice is appropriate.

b. Lighting

Make certain the space is well-lit, but not too bright. Judges should be able to see your face clearly. Too little light and judges cannot see you. Too much light will leave you overexposed and judges cannot see your expressions.

c. Framing

The camera should be set at a distance to frame your face and body clearly. If the judges only see your face and shoulders, it's too close. If judges can see the entire stage but your facial expressions cannot be seen clearly, it's too far away.

E. Media Submission Requirements

1. When uploading, verify that image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly.
2. Save and name your files individually with their titles.

3. Upload each selection as a separate video file.

Do not put your name or any identifying information in or on your media submission.

However, do add your full name in the subject line on your email. Please add in the body of the email your song/opera/composer as well as stating the song/opera/composer on your audio/visual submission.

F. Things That May Disqualify You

1. Do not edit within a piece.
2. Do not use special effects, dissolves, fades or wipes.
3. Do not submit pre-recorded live performances, such as recitals, concerts, or competitions.

G. Judges Will Judge You On the Following: (not in any particular order)

1. Tone Production - an exceptional vocal quality.
2. Technique - the degree to which the performer has acquired control of the voice.
3. Diction - accurate pronunciation and clear articulation.
4. Intonation - singing in tune.
5. Interpretation - the ability to accurately express the piece performed with a clear understanding of its meaning.
6. Phrasing - sensitivity to the need for phrasing and the ability to execute it.
7. Accuracy – the ability to accurately perform correct notes and rhythms.

Note: If your work has been submitted to other competitions, you are responsible for obtaining permission to submit to the Wood Competition.

9. SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Online application must be submitted online by midnight, Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Your vocal submissions must be submitted by email to WoodCompetition@NewOrleansOpera.org by midnight, Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Once your submission is received **and confirmed**, you and your voice teacher will receive an email thanking you for your application/submissions for the Wood Competition. (Not needed this year is your \$35 application fee, your music, or photo identification. Needed is your completed online submitted application and your three (3) audio and audio/visual submissions with your name in the subject line of the email.)

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.

11. CHANGE IN REPERTOIRE

There will be no changes in repertoire.

12. AWARDS AND WINNER CATEGORIES

Winners will be named Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 10 AM. All of the below categories are considered in the “winner” category.

- (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)

Checks for winning will be mailed to the winners. Should a winner want to retrieve their check from the New Orleans Opera Office, that can be arranged. Contact the Director, Debby Wood at (504) 931-3608.

13. WINNER CERTIFICATES

Certificates naming the winners will be sent via regular mail to all winners.

14. REQUIREMENT OF WINNERS

At a time that it is deemed safe to do so, winners may participate in a possible recital 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.

15. PUBLICITY

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

16. SOCIAL MEDIA HASHTAG

#WoodCompetition

17. QUESTIONS?

Contact Debby Wood, Wood Competition Director (504) 931-3608 or

Email: music225@gmail.com

OR

Dr. William Mouat, Education Director (504) 267-9535 at email: education@neworleansopera.org

18. CLOSING

Thank you for your interest in the Wood Competition and best of luck to all applicants! We are here to help if you need it.