

GUILDLINES AND INFORMATION

THE DONALD W. WOOD SR. VOCAL COMPETITION

Sixth Year

PRESENTED BY THE NEW ORLEANS OPERA ASSOCIATION

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS –
COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND FINE ARTS AND PREPARATORY PROGRAM,
NEWCOMB DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC - TULANE UNIVERSITY, AND
THE NEW ORLEANS CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

1. 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.

2. PARTICIPANTS

Any Louisiana high school student in their sophomore, junior, or senior year as of October 4, 2021.

3. DEADLINES FOR 2021-2022 WOOD COMPETITION

Application and audio AND visual YouTube submission deadline is ***MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021***

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

No Later Than October 20, 2021

5. AWARDS

First Place:	\$1,000
Second Place:	\$600
Third Place:	\$400

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

- b. Selections should show the singer's vocal strengths.
- c. Record your selections with or without piano accompaniment. If you are not able to produce a recording with live accompaniment, 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.
- d. Make certain the level of your piano accompaniment does not overpower the sound of your voice in the recording.
- e. Dress appropriately as you would for a live audition.
- f. Use a fixed point of view for your camera. Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one location.
- g. Make certain your image is clear. The Wood Competition judges must be able to see your facial expressions to properly adjudicate your work.
- h. Ensure recording captures optimum quality image.
- i. Ensure recording equipment has the ability to capture professional level sound quality. Check for good balance and blend.
- j. No sound enhancements are allowed.
- k. No music stands or sheet music is allowed.
- l. Before recording your songs, film a test. Perform the first few lines of one of your selections, then watch and listen to it on playback.

Check for the following:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. **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.

7. **MEDIA SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- a. When uploading, verify that the image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly.
- b. Save and name your files individually with a YouTube link. Make certain the link works when shared.
- c. 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.
- d. Before singing, say the name of the song/opera/composer.

8. **THINGS THAT MAY DISQUALIFY YOU**

- a. Do not edit within a song.
- b. Do not use special effects, dissolves, fades or wipes.
- c. Do not submit pre-recorded live performances, such as recitals, concerts, or competitions.

9. **WHAT JUDGES WILL JUDGE YOU ON**

- a. Tone Production - an exceptional vocal quality.
- b. Technique - the degree to which the performer has acquired control of the voice.
- c. Diction - accurate pronunciation and clear articulation.

- d. Intonation - singing in tune.
- e. Interpretation - the ability to accurately express the piece performed with a clear understanding of its meaning.
- f. Phrasing - sensitivity to the need for phrasing and the ability to execute it.
- g. 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.

10. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Complete and submit the Application found on the New Orleans Opera Association website <https://neworleansopera.org/donald-w-wood-sr-vocal-competition/> no later than midnight MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021. **Do not forget to click on the big red button that reads: “Click Here to Submit Application.”**

ALSO, you must send via email (no later than midnight Monday, October 4, 2021) and email with your three audio AND visual links to Woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org. ***The links should be downloaded directly as a YouTube file link only.***

Include the following in your email to WoodCompetition@NewOrleansOpera.org:

- a. List only your name in the subject line.
- b. Do not mention your name during your audio and visual recordings.
- c. During your audio and visual links definitely say the name of your song/composer/opera information prior to singing.
- d. Most importantly:
IN THE BODY OF YOUR EMAIL, LIST YOUR SONG, THE COMPOSER, AND THE OPERA (WHERE APPLICABLE).

11. SUBMISSION TYPES

- a. One 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.***

- b. One art song in a language other than English.
- c. One art song in English from any time period. No musical theater or operatic repertoire allowed for this selection.

All submissions should be audio AND visual and only in the form of a YouTube link.

12. **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.

13. **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.

14. **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Debby Wood, Wood Competition Director at WoodCompetition@NewOrleansOpera.org or music225@gmail.com or call (504) 931-3608