

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION 2017-2018

**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 14, 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 of \$150 for honorable mention may also be given.

4. SCHEDULE/DEADLINES FOR 2016-2017 WOOD COMPETITION

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| Completed Student Application Deadline Date (Send by email only) | Midnight, Wednesday, September 6, 2017 Deadline must be sent by email to woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org No later than midnight, September 6, 2017 (If you are unable to send by email, please contact Debby Wood, Wood Competition Director at (504) 931-3608 |
| Naming of (approximately 25) Finalists by New Orleans Opera Association | Friday, September 22, 2017 |
| Competition Date | Saturday, October 14, 2017 |
| Competition Time | Check in at 12:30 PM Competition begins at 1 PM Sharp |
| Competition Location | Tulane University Dixon Annex Recital Hall |

5. COMPETITION DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

The date of the Wood Competition is **Saturday, October 14, 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 70118-5683

School Phone: (504) 865-5267

6. FINALISTS' AWARDS

Approximately 25 students will receive a "Finalist Certificate" created by the New Orleans Opera Association; those chosen for Round 2 will receive a "Semi-Finalist Certificate" created by the New Orleans Opera Association and will be mailed approximately 2 weeks after the Wood Competition. Winners will also receive a "Winner Certificate" created by the New Orleans Opera Association (which also will be mailed 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 14, 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 your 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 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) 931-3608 or WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org.

9. SUBMISSION TO WOODCOMPETITION@NEWORLEANSOPERA.ORG AND SUBMISSION DEADLINE OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

Students chosen to participate (Finalists) must submit their application by email to woodcompetition@neworleansopera.org and their email must be dated by 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 You Tube video or other safe Internet site. Send \$35 checks (payable to New Orleans Opera Association – in the memo write “Wood Competition” and add name of student Finalist on check). Checks are to be mailed separately (but note on your email application submission that your check is mailed) to: New Orleans Opera Association, Gina Klein, Business Manager, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 1940, New Orleans, LA 70112 post-marked by midnight, Wednesday, September 6, 2017. Credit card payments: Call Gina Klein (504) 267-9527 at the New Orleans Opera Association to charge your \$35 non-refundable application fee on a credit card.

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 Participants 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 REPETOIRE

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 and attach your new music and list your three songs in the email. Don't assume that the Competition Director knows what songs you are replacing.

14. DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

Prizewinners will be announced at the end of the Wood Competition on Saturday, October 14, 2017. First male, first female winners will be awarded \$1,000 each as well as second place will be awarded \$500 each male and female will be announced October 14, 2017. If there is an honorable mention the award is \$150 and will be announced at the Wood Competition. 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, Tulane University, Loyola University, and/or the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts.

16. PUBLICITY

By submitting their application to the Wood Competition, Participants 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 October 14, 2017, 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, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 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, or M4A format.
3. Photocopy of student ID, driver's license or passport.

B. Mail the non-refundable \$35 application fee (payable to New Orleans Opera Association (**in the memo write: Wood Competition and add student participant/Finalist name**)).

Send check by mail (must be post-marked no later than midnight, Wednesday, September 7, 2017) to:

New Orleans Opera Association – Wood Competition
ATTN: Gina Klein, Business Manager
935 Gravier Street, Suite 1940
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Credit Card Payments: Call Gina Klein (504) 267-9527 at the New Orleans Opera Association to charge your \$35 application fee. Whether you mail or call to charge on a credit card the deadline to do so is no later than midnight, Wednesday, September 6, 2017.

19. WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

Applicants should email their completed application submissions to the following:

Email: WoodCompetition@neworleansopera.org

20. QUESTIONS?

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