

Young Artist Award Competition 2021

The City of Gaithersburg, in association with the Kentlands Community Foundation, presents the 18th annual Young Artist Award, a juried competition culminating in a concert for the top prize winners. The goal of the Young Artist Award is to provide musicians ages 12 – 18 with an enriching artistic experience and encourage them in their love of music. The Young Artist Award competition 2021 will be held all online, with no in-person auditions and potentially no in-person performance.

Entry qualifications

The competition is open to vocal soloists (soprano, mezzo soprano, counter-tenor, contralto, tenor, baritone, and bass) and instrumental soloists (woodwind, brass, string bowed, string plucked, and string struck, piano), between the ages of 12 to 18. Applicants must be at least 12 years old but no more than 18 years old by December 31, 2020.

Registration

Registration will be from September 21, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. on January 9, 2021. There is a fee of \$30 for each entry.

Auditions

There will be no in-person, live auditions this year. All auditions will be via video recording. Applicants will be responsible for sending video recordings of themselves performing three different works. Participants may apply as vocal soloist, wind soloist, brass soloist, string soloist, or piano soloist. Participants may apply in more than one category; they must submit a separate fee and recording for each category.

Previous First Place winners may not apply in the category in which they previously won.

All submitted videos will be reviewed by a panel of at least three jurors in each category (vocal, woodwind, brass, strings, and piano). All participants will receive written feedback from the jurors. Written feedback will be emailed to applicants within ten business days after the jurors complete their deliberations. Paper copies of the feedback will be mailed via USPS within 14 days after the jurors have completed their deliberations.

All video submissions must be the work of the applicant, or by an entity producing the video at the behest of said applicant. Videos must be unaltered, with no edits during the audition performance. No audio or visual enhancements of the video (i.e. special video effects, enhanced equalization of the sound) will be permitted. To ensure that all submissions are “one-take” and not edited, all video submissions will have a clock visible in the video recording.

Submissions may be made electronically (preferred) or by hard copy (DVD). An electronic copy of the sheet music for each piece must be included with each submission. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

All electronic submission materials only should be sent to gaithersburgyaa@gmail.com

Any questions about the competition, including where to send a DVD audition recording should be sent to marc.wright@gaitthersburgmd.gov

Technical specifications for the video submissions can be found at

<https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recreation/performing-arts/young-artist-award-competition>

or by contacting Marc Wright at marc.wright@gaitthersburgmd.gov

Performance repertoire

Performance repertoire may not exceed ten (10) minutes in length. Applicants may make cuts if necessary; any cuts made must be noted on the sheet music they provide. Participants MUST include an electronic (pdf) file of their audition repertoire to the competition with their video recording submission. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. The electronic file title must include the

participant's name (first name last name) and the name of the composition (i.e. JuliaSmith_Suite No. 3 Prelude.pdf).

Awards/Prizes

First, second, third and honorable mention prizes may be awarded in each category (vocal, wind, brass, string, and piano). A monetary award is issued with the first, second and third place prizes. Announcement of the winners will be January 25, 2021 by 5 p.m. EST.

Deadlines

Registration will close at 11:59 p.m. on January 9, 2021. The audition videos must be received by January 16, 2021.

Adjudication

Each video audition will be reviewed by a minimum of three (3) jurors. Jurors will independently view the audition videos between January 19 and 22, 2021. Video conferences with the jurors of each category will be held January 23 and 24.

Performances

The City of Gaithersburg and the Kentlands Community Foundation plan to host a live, in-person performance by the first, second and third place winners of the competition, if it is safe and allowable. If a live audience performance is possible, the performance will take place on Friday, February 5, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Arts Barn. Each winner will have a maximum of ten minutes for their performance (necessary cuts are permitted). If an live audience performance is not possible, all winners will submit a video recording of their repertoire, not to exceed ten (10) minutes, by February 4, 2021. If circumstances permit, the winners can be recorded at the Arts Barn from February 1 through February 4, 2021. The "Virtual" concert would be released on Saturday February 5, 2021.