



The Thirty-second Annual

OPERA BIRMINGHAM VOCAL COMPETITION 2010

Semi-final Competition: Saturday, May 22, 2010

Final Competition: Sunday, May 23, 2010

Birmingham, Alabama

First Prize.....	\$3,500
Second Prize.....	\$2,500
Third Prize.....	\$2,000
Fourth Prize.....	\$1,500
Fifth Prize.....	\$1,000
Audience Favorite...	\$1,000

COMPETITION RULES

1. The Competition is open to singers who are current resident citizens of the United States of America.
2. All contestants must be 21 to 35 years of age as of May 22, 2010 (i.e. born on or before May 22, 1989, and on or after May 22, 1974)
3. A non-refundable application fee of \$35 is required of all contestants.
4. The Application Deadline is **Friday, April 16, 2010, at 5:00 P.M. Central Time.**
Note: Acceptance of applications will stop at 5:00 P.M. Central Time on Friday, April 16, regardless of postmark date. The application fee and materials will be returned to the entrant if received after that time.
5. Incomplete applications will be returned to the entrant for completion.
6. All applications must be sent to:
Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition
3601 Sixth Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35222
7. All entrants will be given consideration for casting in future Opera Birmingham productions, as well as productions of the companies represented by the panel of judges.

7. All entrants must complete the application and send it to the address above, along with:
 - A. A professional resume
 - B. A recent photo or professional headshot, at least 4 by 6 inches
 - C. Proof of Age (examples include a copy of driver's license or birth certificate)
 - D. A CD recording of two of the arias listed on the application (see #13)
 - E. Payment of \$35 in the form of
 - a check or money order made payable to Opera Birmingham
 - Visa, MC, Amex, or Discover card number, CVV code, Expiration date, and signature (on the application)
9. Entrants must be prepared to sing from memory four contrasting arias:
 - A. One aria in Italian
 - B. One aria in English
 - C. One aria in either French or German
 - D. One aria in any language of the singer's choosing
10. All arias must be sung in the original key.
11. Translations from another language into English are NOT recommended for the English selection.
12. There will be NO changes to the four aria selections after the application is submitted.
13. Entrants must submit a Compact Disc (CD) recording of two (2) arias from the four offerings. Accompaniment must be piano only. CDs containing more than 2 arias or arias with orchestral accompaniment will NOT be accepted. Replacements will be allowed if Opera Birmingham receives them before the application deadline, **Friday, April 16**.
14. A panel will review the CD entries and select 20 semi-finalists. Opera Birmingham will notify the semi-finalists by **April 26**.
15. Semi-finalists must provide sheet music by mail for all four required arias by **May 10** to Opera Birmingham. No faxed music will be accepted.
16. Opera Birmingham will provide accompanists for the semifinal competition. Singers may bring their own accompanists.
17. Semi-finalists will have a private rehearsal room with a piano and accompanist for a 10-minute rehearsal prior to their assigned competition time.
18. Semi-finalists who are late for the assigned competition time will be disqualified from competition and will not be allowed to sing.
19. Opera Birmingham will choose two arias for the finalists to sing from the list of four submitted.
20. Opera Birmingham will provide the accompanist for the final competition. Opera Birmingham will provide rehearsal time for each of the 5 finalists prior to the final competition.
21. Opera Birmingham will set the order of singers for the finals.
22. Winner of first prize in previous Opera Birmingham Vocal Competitions are ineligible for further competition.
23. Opera Birmingham reserves the right to disqualify contestants for any misrepresentation on their applications.
24. For additional information, please call the Opera Birmingham office at (205) 322-6737 between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M., Monday through Friday. You may also email the Opera at opera@operabirmingham.org with the subject line *Vocal Competition*.

OPERA BIRMINGHAM VOCAL COMPETITION 2010 APPLICATION FORM

Deadline: April 16, 2010, 5:00 p.m. Central Time

NAME: _____

Current MAILING address: _____ *This is my preferred address for correspondence*

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Permanent address (if different from above): _____ *This is my preferred address for correspondence*

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth _____ (between May 22, 1974 and May 22, 1989)

Email Address _____ @ _____

Please provide an email address you check every day—this will be the primary method we use to contact you!

Telephone Number(s) _____

Emergency Contact Name(s) and Number(s)

Voice Category (check one)

Soprano Mezzo Countertenor Tenor Baritone Bass

List the four required arias that you will prepare to sing.

	Language	Aria title	Opera	Composer
1.	Italian			
2.	English			
3.	French or German			
4.				

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$35.00

Check Money order Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ CVV Security Code: _____

Name on the card: _____

By this signature I certify that all the above information is true and correct, and that I have read and understand the rules of the Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition.

Contestant Signature: _____

Printed Contestant Name: _____

Date of Signature: _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

(information in this section will be used solely for research purposes and will have *no effect* on judging)

How did you hear about the Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition?

- On the Opera Birmingham website
- On YAP Tracker
- On Classical Singer
- From a teacher or school
- From a friend or previous Competition entrant
- I have competed in the Vocal Competition before
- Other: _____

What factors influenced you to enter this competition?

- Prize money
- Chance to sing for the Opera and the Competition's judges
- Reputation
- Location—this one's convenient to me
- Other: _____

Has this application made it easy to understand the rules and requirements of the Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition?

- Yes
- No. Please explain: _____

Any comments you have about the Competition process are appreciated:

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	WHO
Friday 4/16/10 5:00 p.m. CST	Application Deadline	Opera Birmingham 3601 Sixth Ave South Birmingham, AL 35222	All entrants
Monday 4/26/10	Notify 20 Semi-finalists	Via USPS (mail) and email	Opera staff
Monday 5/10/10	Provide sheet music to Opera Birmingham	Via USPS (mail), FedEx, or UPS (no faxes or email)	Semi-finalists
Friday 5/21/10	Welcome party for Semi-finalists	Party room atop Red Mountain in Birmingham	Semi-finalists , guests, OB Guild, Board of Trustees, OB Staff
Saturday 5/22/10	10 minute competition time slots for Judges	TBD	Semi-finalists , guests, accompanists, judges, general public
Saturday evening or Sunday morning	Practice sessions	TBD	Five finalists and Opera Birmingham accompanist
Sunday 5/23/10	Final Competition	Birmingham-area Country Club	Five finalists , judges, Opera lovers

Send application, required materials, and payment to:

Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition 2010
3601 Sixth Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35222

What some of our recent winners have done...

Betsy Uschkrat, 2009, soprano — Shreveport Opera, Shreveport Singer of the Year, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera in the Ozarks, Opera Birmingham, Miss Indiana

Christopher Magiera, 2008, baritone — Opera studio, Baayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Germany; Grand Finalist, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions; Glimmerglass Young Artist

Meredith Hansen, 2007, soprano — Finalist, Francisco Vinas Singing Competition in Barcelona; Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with Longwood Opera

Ebony Preston Oya, 2006, soprano — Featured soloist, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, a Community Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Corey McKern, 2005, baritone — Winner OB, Shreveport, and Mobile Opera in same year; *La Bohème*, *Barber of Seville*, and *Turandot* with Opera Birmingham; Santa Fe Opera principal artist; Arizona Opera; Central City Opera; Nevada Opera

Leah Hunt, 2002, soprano — *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Palm Beach Opera; Santa Fe Opera apprentice; Florida Grand Opera

Garret Sorenson, 2001, tenor — Metropolitan Opera debut in 2002; Santa Fe Opera apprentice

Paul Saik, 2000, tenor — *La Bohème*, *Carmen* with Opera Birmingham; Santa Fe Opera apprentice; Des Moines Metro Opera; Pensacola Opera

...and many more!