



LAMORINDA IDOL WINTER EDITION 2020 - 2021

PARTICIPANTS' INFORMATION PACKET

November 9, 2020

Overview

Originated in 2006, Lamorinda Idol is a singing competition open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade who either attend school or reside in Contra Costa County. Singers may enter as soloists or in groups.

Lamorinda Idol Winter Edition will be conducted during the 2020-2021 academic year on a virtual basis, with videos being submitted. Videos will be judged and winners in each category will receive cash prizes.

Categories

Solo singers will compete in one of five grade-based categories: K-2nd grade; 3rd-5th grade; 6th-8th grade; and 9th-12th grade. Groups of two to ten singers will compete in one of four grade-based categories: K-5th grade; 6th-8th grade; and 9th-12th grade. The category will be based on the grade as of October 2020. For groups, the category will be based on the oldest member of the group.

Eligibility

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade living or attending school in Contra Costa County as of October 2020 are eligible to audition.

Past solo winners of Lamorinda Idol are not eligible to compete in the same solo grade category again but may participate if they qualify for the next grade category or in a group category. Past group winners are eligible to compete in the same group category if at least 50% of the members of the new group are different. For example, a winning duet could replace one singer or could retain the original 2 singers and add 2 singers to form a quartet; a winning trio could replace 2 singers or retain 2 singers and add 2 singers to form a quartet; a winning quartet could replace two singers or two of the singers could compete as a duet. Each student is limited to two auditions: one as a soloist and one with a group.

For kindergarten through 12th grade groups, singers from outside Contra Costa County can participate, providing at least one singer lives or goes to school in Contra Costa County.

Timeline and Activities

<p>October 1 – 31, 2020</p>	<p>Audition Registration To register, singers and their parents should go to LamorindaArts.org to access the Participation Registration Form. All members of a group must register. An individual can be a member of only one group.</p>
<p>November 1 – January 3, 2021</p>	<p>Audition Video Submission Audition videos will be posted to YouTube by the singer and the YouTube address will be sent via the Video Submission Form on the Lamorinda Arts Council website any time through January 3. Audition videos will be viewed only by audition judges.</p>
<p>January 6 – 12, 2021</p>	<p>Audition Video Judging Finalists in each category will be determined by a panel of three audition judges who have music and performance backgrounds. The number selected in each category will depend on the quality of the submissions. All participants will be advised whether or not they are a finalist by individual emails by January 15. Finalists names will also be posted on the Lamorinda Idol – Singers page of the Lamorinda Arts Council website, LamorindaArts.org, shortly after email notifications are sent out.</p>
<p>January 15 – February 28, 2021</p>	<p>Finalists' Videos When the names of the finalists are posted, links to the finalists' audition videos will also be posted. At any time up through February 28, finalists can submit another video which will replace the audition video, or they can have the audition video considered in the judging. Judging will be based on the videos on hand as of February 28. Replacement videos can be sent via the Video Submission Form on the Lamorinda Arts Council website.</p>
<p>January 26 – February 16, 2021</p>	<p>Singers' Workshops Rena Wilson will lead Zoom based workshops in January and February which will be open to all solo finalists.</p>
<p>March 3 – 10, 2021</p>	<p>Finals Judging Winners in each category will be based on the votes of three judges. If there are votes for three finalists, each will be declared co-winners. An Audience Award will be given to that participant who is not a category winner with the highest number of public votes, adjusted for category size and number of total category votes. Public voters will have to attest that they have viewed all videos in the category in which they are voting. Public voting will be open from the time links to the finalists' videos are posted until March 10. Directions on how to vote will be posted on the Lamorinda Arts Council website at that time.</p>
<p>March 14, 2021</p>	<p>Awards Presentation Winners will be announced on a Zoom webinar on March 14, to which all will be invited. Winners in each category will be called upon to make comments, and judges will make general comments during the webinar.</p>
<p>March 14, 2021 +</p>	<p>Video Removal Each finalist's video will continue to accessible via the Lamorinda Arts Council website until the singer requests that the link be removed.</p>

Video Preparation

Videos can be shot with any type of camera, including iPhones. Videos can be of any length. Group videos should only be attempted if the guidelines for healthy social distancing are observed.

Video files should be named, "Lamorinda Idol Winter Edition – Singer's Name" for solos and, "Lamorinda Idol Winter Edition – Group Name" for groups.

At the start of the video, singers should slate, stating their name or the name of their group; their grade as of October, 2020; and the name of their song.

Singers can wear any attire they wish.

Singers are restricted from making any adjustments to the sound, including EQ, effects such as reverb, and compression.

Two videos and a memorandum with recommendations for the preparation of videos is linked to the Lamorinda Arts Council – For Singers page.

Posting Videos to YouTube

Singers will be responsible for posting the videos to YouTube. It is recommended that singers select "Yes, it's made for kids," which will prevent the posting of any comments by viewers. Singers may choose to select either "unlisted" or "public" visibility. "Unlisted" requires the viewer to have access to the YouTube address, for example, by going to the Lamorinda Arts Council website, where there will be a link to the video. "Public" allows anyone searching YouTube to have access to the video.

Submitting Videos and Photos

Singers should go the lamorindaarts.org and to the Lamorinda Idol/For Singers page to access the Video Submission Form, where the singer can submit:

- Name of singer.
- Name of group if video is of group.
- YouTube address for video.
- Name of song.
- Photo, which will be used on the website for finalists selected.

Song Selection

Musical selections may be from any genre, including but not limited to classical, Broadway, country, jazz, or pop. Good songs are those that show off the singer's voice well, allow the singer to be expressive, and lend themselves well to performance. The Idol Committee reserves the right to reject any song with inappropriate or offensive content.

Duplication of songs by performers will be permitted, so singers do not have to worry about another singer selecting a song they would like to sing.

Examples of videos of past performances are available at <https://lamorindaarts.org/idol-past-winners/>.

Accompaniment

Singers may be accompanied by recorded or live music. Solo a cappella submissions will not be permitted. Groups may sing a cappella if they sing harmony. Back-up music may not include vocals.

Group Membership

Participation in the Finals requires that a group's membership be unchanged from the Auditions. An individual can be a member of only one group.

Judging Criterion

Judging will be based primarily on vocal capability and secondarily on the overall performance. Judges will be directed to give no consideration to the quality of the video, whether instruments are played, or whether the song is original.

Awards

The winners of each category will receive the following cash prizes:

Category	Award
Soloists Grades K-2	\$200
Soloists Grades 3-5	\$300
Soloists Grades 6-8	\$400
Soloists Grades 9-12	\$400
Soloists Alumni	\$400
Groups Grades K-5	\$200
Groups Grades 6-8	\$300
Groups Grades 9-12	\$400
Audience Award	\$300

Award checks will be mailed to winners.

Workshops

Rena Wilson will lead the Zoom based workshops for all solo finalists in January and February. Parents are also welcome to audit the workshops. Rena is a founder of Performing Academy, a former lead in *Beach Blanket Babylon*, and a highly regarded private coach.

The schedule of workshops is:

Tuesday, January 26
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, February 2
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, February 9
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, February 16
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Those interested may sign up via a SignUp Genius link which will be provided to finalists on January 15. Each workshop slot will be for an individual singer and will be 15 minutes long. Each finalist is limited to 2 workshop sessions. Students can log in for the whole hour muted with their cameras off or they can just log in at their designated time slot.

If a singer needs to cancel their workshop session, they should provide a prompt email notice to Steve Harwood and Rena Wilson at zzz9@comcast.net and rena@performingacademy.com and remove their name from the SignUp Genius page.

Prior to the singers' workshops, participants should:

- Be prepared to sing live to a karaoke track set up on a separate device with a quality speaker. The song can be any song of the singer's choosing.
- Test the balance between the singing and the back-up music.
- Change the Zoom settings as follows.
 - Go to "Audio Settings."
 - Click "Advanced" button in the lower right of that window.
 - Click the box next to "show in-meeting option for original sound from microphone."
 - Change the drop-down settings to "Disable" for "Suppress Persistent Background Noise" and "Suppress Intermittent Background Noise," and to "Aggressive" for "Echo."
 - On the main screen, click on "Turn on Original Sound."
- Change the name of the Zoom screen to be the name of the singer.

Financial Support

There will be no fee to participate in Lamorinda Idol Winter Edition. However, contributions to offset expenses will be appreciated. A suggested contribution is \$100 per finalist. Please send contributions payable to Lamorinda Arts Council, noting that it is in support of Lamorinda Idol, to PO Box 121, Orinda, CA 94563.

Staffing

Chairman	Steve Harwood
Lamorinda Arts Council Liaison	June Lim
Administrative Manager	Allie Van De Poel
Publicity	Carol Van De Poel
Idol Social Media	Lleyton Allen
LAC Website/ LAC Social Media/Technology	Shelly Rose
Contra Costa Outreach	Liz Becker
Alumni Outreach	Katie Marino
Performance Workshops	Rena Wilson
Finals Emcees and Judges	Esther Becker
Advisors	Jacqueline Welch Sonya Schroeder Sean O'Conner Doug Home Rebecca Young John Poole Catherine Chen Erin Ackdoe

Communications

Communications to anyone on the Lamorinda Idol Organizing Committee should be sent to idol@lamorindaarts.org and the appropriate person on the Committee will respond.

Coaches

Private coaching is not required. However, some Lamorinda Idol performers do seek out personal coaches. Some of the coaches in the area include:

Rena Wilson and Performing Academy staff, (925) 385-0354, info@performingacademy.com.

Leslie Noel, deskofleslienoel@gmail.com, (925) 577-3467.

Patrick Bradley and staff of Bradley School of Music, patrick.k.bradley@gmail.com, (925) 356-1341.

Jim Fiatarone and staff of ALMA, (925) 254-5056.

Myeve Capozzi, (925) 330-1850, myvecapozzi@yahoo.com.

Lucia Scardigno, hilucia@me.com, (925) 933-1126.

Pamela Brooks, (925) 937-9375.

Victoria Rapanan, victoria_rapanan@yahoo.com.

Amikaeyla Gaston, amikaeyla@gmail.com

The staff of The Studios at Piedmont Piano Company, (510) 652-1222, studios@piedmontpiano.com.

Ron Pickett, (925) 254-8770.

Betty Schneider, 510-367-0487, betty@bettyschneider.com

Jed da Roza, 925-216-8598, jed.daroza@gmail.com, <http://jeddaroz.com>.