



LAMORINDA IDOL 2021



PARTICIPANTS' INFORMATION PACKET

April 11, 2021

Overview

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

Lamorinda Idol 2021 will be conducted on a virtual basis, with videos being submitted, until COVID considerations allow for in-person activities, after which the program will continue on an in-person basis.

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 May 2021. 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 May 2021 are eligible to audition. Singers from outside Contra Costa County can participate in groups, providing at least one singer in the group lives or goes to school in Contra Costa County.

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.

Summary of Activities

	Virtual Plan	In-Person Plan
April 1-30, 2021	Online registration.	Online registration.
May 15, 2021	Deadline for submission of audition videos.	Deadline for submission of audition videos.
May 15-23, 2021	Audition judges voting.	Audition judges voting.
June 1, 2021	Notification of audition results.	Notification of audition results.
June 12, 2021		Pool and karaoke party for finalists and their families.
June 15, 2021	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.
June 22, 2021	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.
June 25, 2021		Lafayette Plaza performance for finalists.
June 29, 2021	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.	Zoom performance workshops for solo finalists.
July 4, 2021		Orinda July 4th parade participation for Lamorinda Idol Winter Edition winners.
July 6, 2021	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.
July 13, 2021	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.	Zoom workshops for solo finalists.
July 20, 2021		Orinda Community Park performance for finalists.
July 31, 2021	Deadline for submission of final videos.	
August 7, 2021		Lamorinda Idol finalists who are also OMPA finalists will sing the National Anthem at the OMPA Finals.
August 3-10, 2021	Finals judges and public voting.	
August 13, 2021		Finals rehearsal at Orinda Theatre.
August 15, 2021	Zoom awards webinar.	Finals at Orinda Theatre.
September 11, 2021		Orinda Car Show performance for 2021 winners.
September 18, 2021		Lafayette Art and Wine Festival performance for finalists.
December, 2021		Lamorinda Arts Council Holiday Luncheon for 2021 winners.

Auditions

To register, singers and their parents should go to LamorindaArts.org to access the Participant Registration Form. All members of a group must register. Registration will be open April 1-30, 2021.

Auditions will be held on a virtual basis, with those auditioning submitting an audition video by May 13.

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 2021 – Singer's Name" for solos and, "Lamorinda Idol 2021 – 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 May, 2021, 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 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 their 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 Audition 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.

Workshops

Rena Wilson will lead the workshops for solo finalists. Workshops will be Zoom based. 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, June 15
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, June 22
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, June 29
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

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

Tuesday, July 13
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 June 1. 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. Anyone who cancels with less than 48 hours' notice or is a no show will forfeit their opportunity for a second workshop coaching session.

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.

Summer In-Person Activities

If in-person activities are considered COVID safe, the following activities will be held.

- On June 12, a pool and karaoke party for finalists and their families at Steve Harwood's home, 93 Van Ripper Lane, Orinda. An informational meeting for the parents will be held at the party.
- On June 25, an optional performance will be held at Lafayette Plaza for finalists.
- On July 20, an optional performance will be held at the Orinda Community Park for finalists.

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 audition songs by performers will be permitted, so singers do not have to worry about another singer selecting a song they would like to sing. If the Finals are conducted on a virtual basis duplication of songs will be permitted. If the Finals are conducted on an in-person basis, duplication of songs will not be permitted, and there will be a registration process for song choices, on a first-come first-served basis.

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

Song Length and Editing

There is no song length limit for any video submissions.

For any in-person outdoor summer performances, songs will be limited to 3 minutes.

For the in-person Finals, the maximum song duration in minutes is set by category as follows:

Category	Limit
Soloist K-2	2:00
Soloist 3-5	2:30
Soloist 6-8	3:00
Soloist 9-12	3:30
Group K-5	2:30
Group 6-8	3:00
Group 9-12	3:30

For the in-person summer performances and the Finals careful editing of back-up music may be required to comply with song length constraints.

Should song editing be desired, it is strongly urged that singers use the services of an individual with expertise. The staff of Performing Academy is available for editing and can be reached at 925 385-0354 and rena@lamorindatheatreacademy.com. Matt Kolb, kolb.matt@gmail.com, is available to create original tracks.

Ambitious parents and singers may wish to develop their own song editing skills. A warning: it is not easy! One option is to edit using GarageBand software. Another is to use Audacity software to edit a song, and LAME software to export the edited song into an mp3 file, both which are available for free on the Internet.

It is important for singers to have their music in a key that fits well with their singing range. Back-up music is often available in different keys. Equipment or software also exists that allows for changing the key, and then a file can be made in the new key.

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. The only exception is if a member of a group is ill at the time of the performance or video taping. An individual can be a member of only one group.

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 June 1. Finalists' audition videos will be posted on the Lamorinda Idol – Singers page of the Lamorinda Arts Council website, LamorindaArts.org, shortly after email notifications are sent out.

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.

Virtual Finals

If the Finals are to be virtual, finalists will submit the video to be used in the final judging, via the Finals Video Submission Form on the Lamorinda Arts Council website. The Finals video may be the same or different from the audition video.

Virtual Awards Presentation

If the Finals are to be virtual, winners will be announced on a Zoom webinar on August 15, 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.

In-Person Finals

If an in-person Finals is planned, the rehearsal for the Finals will be Friday, August 13, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Orinda Theatre. It is very important that all singers attend the rehearsal. The Finals will be on Sunday, August 15, 2021 from 11 am to 7:30 pm, at the Orinda Theatre.

The schedule for the Finals and the approximate number of Finalists in each category are shown below.

Session	Session Time	Performances	Approximate Number of Finalists
1	11:00 - 12:30	Solo K - 2	5
		Solo 3 - 5	10
2	1:00 - 2:30	Groups K - 5	4
		Groups 6 - 8	4
		Groups 9 - 12	4
3	3:15 - 4:30	Solo 6 - 8	10
4	5:00 - 6:15	Solo 9 - 12	10
5	7:00 - 7:30	K - 12 Awards	

Finals Judging

Winners will be determined by votes of three judges in each category who are Bay Area music and performance professionals and voting from the public, if the Finals are virtual, or the audience, if the Finals are in person. If the judges vote for three separate finalists in a category, the public or audience vote will be the tie-breaker. An Audience Award will be given to that participant who is not a category winner with the highest number of public or audience votes, adjusted for category size and number of total category votes.

For a virtual Finals, 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 August 3 - 10. For an in-person Finals, audience voting requires the voter to have viewed all the performances in the voting category. Directions on how to vote will be posted on the Lamorinda Arts Council website at that time.

For the in-person Finals, performers will receive immediate feedback from a panel of three judges.

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	\$500
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.

Financial Support

There will be no fee to participate in Lamorinda Idol 2021. 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. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Staffing

The Lamorinda Idol Committee will manage Lamorinda Idol 2021. The members of the committee are:

Steve Harwood
June Lim
Allie Van De Poel
Carol Van De Poel
Lleyton Allen
Shelly Rose
Rena Wilson
Esther Becker
Jacqueline Welch
Sonya Schroeder
Sean O'Conner
Doug Home
Rebecca Young
John Poole
Catherine Chen
Erin Ackdoe

Parent Volunteers

If the decision is made to proceed with any in-person activities, volunteers will be sought, as follows:

- Pool and Karaoke Party
 - Organize and set up
 - Manage BBQ
 - Clean up
- Lafayette Plaza Performance
 - Assist in setting up equipment
 - Assist in management of performers during the performance
 - Assist in packing up equipment
- Orinda Community Park Performance
 - Assist in setting up equipment
 - Assist in management of performers during the performance
 - Assist in packing up equipment
- Rehearsals and Finals
 - Pick up and return equipment from OIS and deliver to Orinda Theatre
 - Serve as a category chaperone at rehearsal and at Finals
 - Provide snacks and refreshments for rehearsal
 - Assist in set-up of equipment for rehearsal and Finals
 - Assist in packing up equipment after rehearsal and Finals

Communications

Communications to anyone on the Lamorinda Idol 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, myvevcaozzi@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>.