



LAMORINDA IDOL 2023

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

March 21, 2023

Overview

Originated in 2006, Lamorinda Idol is a singing competition open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade who attend school or reside in Lamorinda (Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda). Singers may enter as soloists or in groups.

Categories

Solo singers can compete in one of four grade-based categories: K-2nd grade; 3rd-5th grade; 6th-8th grade; and 9th-12th grade. Groups of two to ten singers can compete in one of three grade-based categories: K-5th grade; 6th-8th grade; and 9th-12th grade. The category will be based on the grade as of May 2023. For groups, the category will be based on the grade of the oldest member of the group.

Eligibility

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade living or attending school in Lamorinda as of May 2023 are eligible to audition. Singers from outside Lamorinda can participate in groups, providing at least one singer in the group lives or goes to school in Lamorinda.

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 two singers and add two singers to form a quartet; a winning trio could replace two singers or retain two singers and add two 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

April 1-30, 2023	Online registration.
May 15, 2023	Deadline for submission of audition videos.
May 19-25, 2023	Audition judges voting.
June 1, 2023	Notification of audition results.
June 13, 2023	Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
June 17, 2023	Swim and karaoke party for finalists, runners-up, and families at Steve Harwood's home. An organizational meeting will also be held for parents.
June 20, 2023	Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
June 23, 2023	Lafayette Plaza performance for finalists and runners-up.
June 27, 2023	Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
July 4, 2023	Orinda July 4th parade participation for Lamorinda Idol 2022 winners.
July 11, 2023	Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
July 13, 2023	Orinda Community Park performance for finalists and runners-up.
July 18, 2023	Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
July 25, 2023	Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
July 28 and 29, 2023	Lamorinda Idol finalists for finalists and runners-up who are also OMPA finalists will sing the National Anthem at the OMPA Finals.
August 2, 2023	Performance at the Moraga Commons for finalists and runners-up.
August 18, 2023	Finals rehearsal at Orinda Theatre.
August 20, 2023	Finals at Orinda Theatre.
September 9, 2023	Orinda Car Show performance for 2023 winners.
September 23, 2023	Lafayette Art and Wine Festival performance for finalists and runners-up.

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, 2023.

Auditions will be held on a virtual basis, with those auditioning submitting an audition video by May 15, 2023.

Audition Video Preparation and Posting

Videos can be shot with any type of camera, including iPhones. Videos can be of any length. If using an iPhone, videos should be shot horizontally. Care should be taken to arrange good lighting.

Video files should be named, "Lamorinda Idol 2023 – Singer's Name" for solos and, "Lamorinda Idol 2023 – 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, 2023, 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.

In past Lamorinda Idol editions, audition videos have ranged from those that are relatively simple, with the audio and video recorded simultaneously, to those where the audio is recorded separately and then the video is recorded with the singer lip synching, to those that have multiple views, in the style of MTV videos. While auditioners are free to use any of these approaches, the judges prefer the simple approach with no lip synching, as they feel this approach can best capture the skill of the singer, and is the best approach to communicate the emotion of the song. Further recommendations for the preparation of videos are linked to the Lamorinda Arts Council – For Singers page.

Singers will be responsible for posting their audition 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 Audition 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 audition song.
- Photo, which will be used on the website for finalists selected.

Audition Judging and Feedback

Finalists and runners-up 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, and will be approximately as follows:

Category	Approximate Number of Finalists	Approximate Number of Runners-Up
Solo K - 2	2-4	2
Solo 3 - 5	10-12	2
Solo 6 - 8	10-12	2
Solo 9 - 12	10-12	2
Groups K - 5	3-4	2
Groups 6 - 8	3-4	2
Groups 9 - 12	3-4	2

All participants will be advised whether or not they are a finalist or a runner-up by individual emails by June 1. Finalists' and runners-up' 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.

Each judge will independently provide a numerical grade on a scale of one to ten for each performance, and the combined scores of the three judges will result in a ranking of the performers. The primary considerations in grading performances are the singers' ability to sing pitches accurately, use good vocal technique, express the song's emotions, use clear diction, and effectively tell the story of the song. Those singers that can do these skills well and make the song their own, singing from their heart, are those that receive the highest grades. There is no weighting given to the quality of video submitted, whether instruments are played, or whether the song is original.

Lamorinda Idol is not structured so that performers can receive feedback from audition judges. The judges' grades are provided only to Steve Harwood and judges' notes are confidential, not available to any party. However, those selected as finalists or runners-up can receive feedback by participating in the workshop program, and finalists will receive immediate feedback from finals judges.

Opportunities for Runners-Up

Runners-up will have the opportunity to perform in the summer outdoor performances and participate in the workshops. If a finalist is unable to perform in the finals, runners-up may be invited to take their place.

Workshops

Rena Wilson will lead workshops for solo finalists and runners-up focusing on vocal technique & finding authentic connection to songs. Workshops will be via Zoom. Parents are welcome to audit the workshops. Rena is Co-Founder of Performing Academy, former "Snow White" in *Beach Blanket Babylon*, and is a highly regarded private acting and vocal coach. She now lives in Southern California where she is an actor & voice teacher.

The schedule of workshops is:

Tuesday, June 13
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, June 20
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, June 27
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

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

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

Tuesday, July 25
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 and runners-up on June 1. Each workshop slot will be for an individual singer and will be 15 minutes long. Each singer is limited to two 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 zzz9harwood@gmail.com and renawilson@gmail.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 backing 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 "Preference" then click on "Audio."
 - Under "Audio Profile" click on "Original Sound for Musicians."
 - Check all three boxes "High-Fidelity Music Mode", "Echo Cancellation" "Studio Audio."
 - Close "Preferences" window. In the meeting in the upper left hand corner should say "Original Sound for Musicians: On."
- Change the name of the Zoom screen to be the name of the singer.

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. Duplication of Finals 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 audition video submissions.

For summer performances, songs will be limited to 3 minutes.

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

Ambitious parents and singers may wish to develop their own song editing skills, using video editing software such as iMovie and Filmora and audio editing software such as Garage Band and Audacity.

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.

Editing is available for a fee from Campolindo junior, Clea Lee, 669 240-6769, c94556@gmail.com.

Accompaniment

Singers may be accompanied by recorded or live music. Solo a cappella songs 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 Finals. An individual can be a member of only one group.

Finals

The rehearsal for the Finals will be Friday, August 18, 2023 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Orinda Theatre. It is important that all singers attend the rehearsal. The Finals will be on Sunday, August 20, 2023 from 11 am to 7:30 pm, at the Orinda Theatre.

The schedule for the Finals is shown below.

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

Finals Feedback and Judging

Performers will receive immediate feedback from the panel of three judges in each category who are Bay Area music and performance professionals.

Winners will be determined by votes of the judges and voting from the audience. Each judge will vote for one performer, using the same criterion as set forth above for audition judging. If the judges vote for three separate finalists in a category, the audience vote will be the tiebreaker. An Audience Award will be given to that participant who is not a category winner with the highest number of audience votes, adjusted for category size and number of total category votes.

Audience voting requires the voter to have viewed all the performances in the voting category.

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.

Photos and Videos

Photos of the summer and finals performances will be posted to the Lamorinda Arts Council website Idol page and can be downloaded without cost. The photos may also be posted to social media and used in news articles.

Videos will be prepared of each finalist's performance. These will be posted to YouTube as "unlisted" and linked to the Lamorinda Arts Council website Idol page. The links will also be provided to finalists.

Should any singer not wish that their photograph or finals video be posted or wish it removed at a future date, they should contact Steve Harwood, who will remove it.

Financial Support

The expenses to mount the Lamorinda Idol program are significant. For example, all performances will have professionally managed sound. There will be a fee of \$200 per finalist and \$100 per runner-up. Additional contributions will be appreciated. Please send fees and 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 2023. The members of the Committee are:

Chair	Steve Harwood
Administrative Manager	Allie Van De Poel
Assistant Administrative Manager	Aubrey Peterson
Publicity	Carol Van De Poel
Website, Registration Forms, Social Media	Shelly Rose
Workshops	Rena Wilson
Photography	Dan Klein
Summer Activities (Pool Party, Lafayette Plaza Performance, Orinda Park Performance, Moraga Commons Performance)	Doug Home Joanne Home Rebecca Young John Poole Bill Cosden
Finals Judges and Emcees	Joanne Home
Finals	Bonnie Kim June Lim Rodger Morris Bill Cosden
OMPA	Jackie Welch
Video Editor	Clea Lee

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers will be sought, as follows:

- Pool and Karaoke Party
 - Organize food.
 - Assist in setting up.
 - Do BBQing.
 - Assist in cleanup.
- Lafayette Plaza Performance
 - Manage singers.
 - Assist in setting up equipment.
 - Assist in management of performers during the performance.
 - Assist in packing up equipment.
- Orinda Community Park Performance
 - Manage singers.
 - Assist in setting up equipment.
 - Assist in management of performers during the performance.
 - Assist in packing up equipment.
- Moraga Commons Performance
 - Manage singers.
 - 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 OIS equipment.
 - 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.

Parents can sign up for parent volunteer positions using a sign-Up Genius Form after June 1.

Summary of Forms

Participant Registration Form.

Audition Submission Form.

Sign-Up Genius Form for workshop participation.

Sign-Up Genius Form for parent volunteer roles.

All forms will be linked to the lamorindaarts.com Idol page.

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. Coaches in the area include:

Rena Wilson, (408) 540-4373, renawilson@gmail.com.

Leslie Noel, deskofleslienoe@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>.