



Lamorinda Idol 2025

Program Description

January 24, 2025

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 2025. 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 2025 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 (Dates Subject to Confirmation)

April 1-30, 2025	Online registration.
May 8-10, 2025	In person auditions, held at OIS.
June 1, 2025	Notification of audition results.
June 10, 2025	Vocal and performance Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
June 14, 2025	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 17, 2025	Vocal and performance Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
June 24, 2025	Vocal and performance Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
June 27, 2025	Lafayette Plaza performance for finalists and runners-up.
July 4, 2025	Orinda July 4th parade participation for Lamorinda Idol 2024 winners.
July 8, 2025	Vocal and performance Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
July 10, 202	Orinda Community Park performance for finalists and runners-up.
July 15, 2025	In person vocal and performance workshops for solo finalists and runners-up, 93 Van Ripper Lane, Orinda.
July 22, 2025	Vocal and performance Zoom workshops for solo finalists and runners-up.
July 30, 2025	Performance at the Moraga Commons for finalists and runners-up.
August 1 and 2, 2025	Lamorinda Idol finalists for finalists and runners-up who are also OMPA finalists will sing the National Anthem at the OMPA Finals.
August 15, 2025	Finals rehearsal at Orinda Theatre.
August 17, 2025	Finals at Orinda Theatre.
September 6, 2025	Orinda Car Show performance for 2025 winners.
September 20, 2025	Lafayette Art and Wine Festival performance for finalists and runners-up.

Audition Schedule

Auditions will take place May 8-10, 2025, at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda.

Category	Audition Date	Audition Times
Soloists K-2	Saturday, May 10	1:30 – 2:15 PM
Soloists 3-5	Saturday, May 10	8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Soloists 6-8	Friday, May 9	4:30 – 7:30 PM
Soloists 9-12	Thursday, May 8	5:00 – 6:15 PM
		7:45 – 8:15 PM
	Saturday, May 10	4:30 – 5:00 PM
Groups K-5	Saturday, May 10	2:30 – 3:45 PM
Groups 6-8	Friday, May 9	8:00 – 9:00 PM
Groups 9-12	Thursday, May 8	6:30 – 7:30 PM
	Saturday, May 10	4:00 – 4:30 PM

Those wishing to audition who have a conflict during the designated time blocks for his or her category may sign up to audition in another category's time block, with the approval of the Co-Chairs.

Individuals who wish to audition who will be out of town during the auditions or who are concerned with COVID risk may submit a video audition, subject to the approval of the Co-Chairs. The video must be submitted by April 30.

Audition Registration

Audition registration will be open April 1-30, 2025. To reserve an audition slot, singers should go to LamorindaArts.org to access the Audition Registration Form. Upon submission of the registration form, the registrant will be immediately linked to a payment site, where an audition fee of \$15, to help with the costs of the Lamorinda Idol program, can be paid. The audition fee must be paid prior to the audition date.

Following submission of the Audition Registration Form and the payment of the audition fee, registrants will receive a confirming email which will include the address of the SignUpGenius site where they can select an audition time. All members of a group must register; however, only one member of each group should select the audition time for the group. There are limited number of audition times and auditions will be available on a first come first served basis.

Audition Song Length

For the auditions, song length will be limited as follows:

Category	Song Length in Minutes
Solo K - 2	3
Solo 3 - 5	3
Solo 6 - 8	3
Solo 9 - 12	4
Groups K - 5	3
Groups 6 - 8	3
Groups 9 - 12	4

Backing tracks need not be tailored to the song length limit. Rather, the song will be halted at the time limit.

If the number of auditioners exceeds the number of audition slots available, the maximum time limits for each category may be shortened.

Audition Judging

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 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

Audition judges will be looking for vocal and performance ability and will rank candidates by a confidential process. The primary considerations in evaluating 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 tend to be selected. Due to time constraints at auditions, there will be no feedback given to auditioners following their audition. All those auditioning will be notified by email of the audition results by June 1, 2025.

Finalist and Runner-up Information Submittals

After receiving notice of their selection, Finalists and Runners-up and their parents should promptly complete the following forms:

- Summer Activities Signup Form.
- Parent Volunteer Activities Form.
- Finalists and Runners-Up Fee Payment Form.

Opportunities for Runners-Up

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

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 for the auditions and summer performances. 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. Singers should advise the Administrative Manager of their song selection no later than July 1.

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

Song Length for Summer Performances and the Finals

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

Editing of Backing Tracks

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 senior, Clea Lea, reachable at c94556@gmail.com.

Accompaniment

Singers may be accompanied by recorded music or they can accompany themselves, providing the instrument can be carried into the audition room. Singers who wish to use an instrument in the Finals must audition with the instrument. Solo a cappella songs will not be permitted. Groups may sing a cappella if they sing harmony. Back-up music may not include vocals.

For the auditions, recorded music can be on an iPhone, on a thumb drive, or on a CD. Music should not rely on an Internet connection.

For the summer performances and the Finals, backing tracks should be in an mp3 format and submitted via email no later than July 15.

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.

Vocal and Performance Workshops

Rena Wilson will lead workshops for solo finalists and runners-up focusing on vocal technique and finding authentic connection to songs. In addition, workshops will cover overall performance skills. Workshops will be via Zoom, except for the July 15 sessions, which will be in person at 93 Van Ripper Lane, Orinda. Parents are welcome to audit the workshops. Rena is Co-Founder of Performing Academy, a 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 and voice teacher.

The schedule of workshops is:

Tuesday, June 10 (Zoom)
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, June 17 (Zoom)
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, June 24 (Zoom)
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, July 8 (Zoom)
4:00-5:00 PM - Ages 5-11
5:15-6:15 PM - Ages 11-18

Tuesday, July 15 (In person, for finalists only)
3:00-3:45 PM - Grades K-2
3:45-4:30 PM - Grades 3-5
4:30-5:15 PM - Grades 6-8
5:30-6:30 PM - Grades 9-12

Tuesday, July 22 (Zoom)
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 Zoom workshop slot will be for an individual singer and will be 15 minutes long. Each singer is limited to two Zoom 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. The in-person workshop on July 16 will have 45-60 minute session open only to finalists.

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.

Finals

The rehearsal for the Finals will be Friday, August 15, 2025 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 17, 2025 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 in the Finals 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

Finalists should provide the Administrative Manager a photo for use in the Finals Playbill, no later than July 1. Headshot photos are preferred. A local photographer who can create professional level headshots is Allison Paraiso-Silicani, reachable at allison@allisonparaisophotography.com and 626-215-8701 (cell phone).

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 performance at the Finals. 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. If a singer is both a soloist and part of a group, the maximum total fee is \$200. 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. Upon request, fees will be waived.

Summary of Online Forms

The following is a summary of the various online forms used by Lamorinda Idol 2025.

- Audition Registration Form
- Audition Fee Payment Form
- Audition Sign-Up Genius Form
- Summer Activities Signup Form.
- Parent Volunteer Activities Form.
- Finalists and Runners-Up Fee Payment Form.

Staffing

The Lamorinda Idol Committee will manage Lamorinda Idol 2025. The members of the Committee are:

Position		Status
Chair	Steve Harwood	Confirmed.
Administrative Manager	Aubrey Peterson	Confirmed.
Website, Forms	Ali Kozoll	Confirmed.
Publicity	Carol Van De Poel	Confirmed.
NCL Volunteer Liaison	Ingrid Stabb	Confirmed.
Auditions	Doug Home, Co-Chair	Confirmed.
	Joanne Home, Co-Chair	Confirmed.
	Clea Lee	To confirm.
	Jenn Klein	Confirmed.
Performance Workshops	Rena Wilson	Confirmed.
Pool Party, Park Performances	Doug Home	Confirmed.
	Joanne Home	Confirmed.
	Rebecca Young	Confirmed.
	John Poole	Confirmed.
	Bill Cosden	Confirmed.
4th of July Parade	TBD	
Photography	Dan Klein	Confirmed.
OMPA	Jackie Welch	Confirmed.
Finals Judges and Emcees	Joanne Home	Confirmed.
Gift Certificates	Bill Cosden	Confirmed.
Finals	Rodger Morris, Chair	Confirmed.
	Ingrid Stabb	Confirmed.
	John Pennington	Confirmed.
	Sharon Koh	Confirmed.
	Bonnie Kim, Advisor	Confirmed.
Music Editor	Clea Lee	To confirm.
Social Media	Ali Kozoll	Confirmed.
	TBN	

Parent Volunteers

Lamorinda Idol is a collaborative effort by both the organizers and parents. Parents are expected to volunteer for one or more of the following roles.

- Pool and Karaoke Party
 - Purchase and bring food.
 - Assist during party.
 - Do BBQing.
 - Assist in cleanup.
- 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.
- Moraga Commons Performance
 - Assist in setting up equipment.
 - Assist in management of performers during the performance.
 - Assist in packing up equipment.
- Rehearsal 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 cleaning up theatre between Finals sessions.
 - 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.

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.

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

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, 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, myevecapozzi@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>.

Other Programs

Other independent programs in which many who have participated in Lamorinda Idol have also participated include the Peter Pan Foundation and Performing Academy.

Peter Pan Foundation

Peter Pan Foundation offers singing and acting opportunities for both students and young adults. There's a major musical production in May, concerts throughout the year, cabaret nights for youth performers, and a summer camp in June for elementary and middle school students. What makes PPF unique is that those involved also have the opportunity to be involved charitable work, including fulfilling wishes for young patients at Children's Hospital of Oakland by dressing up as fairies and super-heroes and entertaining them.

To find out more about Peter Pan Foundation, go to PeterPanFoundation.org.

Performing Academy

Performing Academy has several opportunities for young performers.

Its Performing Ensemble activity is a musical theatre training and performing program for students aged 9-15. Students work with professional directors, choreographers, musical directors and vocal coaches over a four-month period to prepare a showcase of solos, duets, and group numbers. The ensemble and artistic staff work together to create a polished and professional product to "take on the road" and perform at events throughout the Bay Area.

In addition, during June there is a summer camp for rising 1st through 4th grade performers, culminating in a final performance.

For more information, go to PerformingAcademy.com.