



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Schmidt Vocal Arts Announces 2020-2021 Season

Celebrated Schmidt Vocal Competition Will Be Virtual in the Fall with Plans to Return to Live Competitions for the Spring Season Beginning in March 2021

(Covington, Ky.) August 11, 2020 – [Schmidt Vocal Arts](https://www.schmidtvocalarts.org) has announced its 2020-2021 season of vocal programming. The celebrated Schmidt Vocal Competition takes place during the academic year and is hosted by college and university institutions throughout the U.S. Due to the continuing precautions related to COVID-19, the Fall 2020 Competitions will be offered in a modified, virtual format, with competitions planned to return to a Live format for the Spring Season, beginning in March 2021.

“While we had hoped to return to our traditional live competition model this Fall, we’re excited to be able to offer young singers the opportunity to participate in our modified, virtual competition format,” says Schmidt Vocal Arts Executive Director Linda McAlister. “Not only is this a chance for them to showcase their talent and compete for cash awards, but winners placing among the top three are also eligible for scholarship opportunities – both from the host institution where they compete and through our Schmidt Vocal Scholarships program. In these uncertain times, we believe it is important to continue to find ways to offer educational experiences for young singers.”

Funded by the William E. Schmidt Foundation, Schmidt Vocal Arts is committed to fostering a passion for classical singing and creating opportunities for young singers to propel them on their journey toward a career in the arts.

The **Schmidt Vocal Competition** is held annually in select locations throughout the U.S. for aspiring high school singers who will perform, learn, and compete for cash awards and scholarships. Singers receive written feedback from adjudicators who are part of the Schmidt Vocal Artist Network. Each competition features master classes with world-renowned artists. Competitors also become part of the Schmidt program alumni where they can network with others and participate in future alumni programming.

Below is the competition schedule for the 2020-2021 season. To learn more and to apply, visit <https://schmidtvocalarts.org/programs/vocal-competition/>.

2020-2021 Schmidt Vocal Competition Schedule

FALL VIRTUAL COMPETITIONS:

October 24, 2020 – Texas (Baylor University)
October 31, 2020 – Florida (Palm Beach Atlantic University)
October 31, 2020 – Ohio (Miami University)
November 14, 2020 – New York (Mannes School of Music)
November 14, 2020 – Tennessee (Vanderbilt University)
November 21, 2020 – Colorado (University of Colorado-Boulder)
November 21, 2020 – Nevada (University of Nevada-Las Vegas)

SPRING LIVE COMPETITIONS:

March 6, 2021 – Georgia (Georgia State University)
March 13, 2021 – Pennsylvania (Temple University)
March 13, 2021 – North Carolina (University of North Carolina School of the Arts)
March 27, 2021 – California (University of California-Berkeley)
April 17, 2021 – Minnesota (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities)
April 24, 2021 – Indiana (University of Indianapolis)
May 8, 2021 – Washington (Pacific Lutheran University)
May 15, 2021 – Illinois (Chicago College of Performing Arts-Roosevelt University)
May 16, 2021 – Massachusetts (Boston Conservatory)

Schmidt Vocal Institute will be held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio from **June 21 through July 4, 2021**. SVI is a two-week intensive summer program, that gives young singers opportunities to participate in voice lessons with esteemed professionals, master classes and coaching with world-renowned guest artists, and both solo and ensemble performance opportunities. This season guest faculty will include Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves**, pianist/coach **J.J. Penna** (New England Conservatory/The Juilliard School), and pianist/coach **Craig Terry** (Musical Director of Ryan Opera Center-Lyric Opera of Chicago). Since the program's inception in 2016, more than 150 young singers have participated in the Schmidt Vocal Institute. To learn more or register, visit <https://schmidtvocalarts.org/programs/vocal-institute/>.

Through the **Schmidt Vocal Scholarships** program, Schmidt Vocal Arts provides thousands of dollars in need- and merit-based scholarships to eligible, aspiring young singers. Need-based scholarships, which are typically awarded to winners (top three places) of Schmidt Vocal Competitions, reduce the scholars' burden of borrowing and lessen funding gaps between cost and ability to pay. Scholarship recipients major in Vocal Performance and maintain a minimum 2.8 GPA. Students also benefit from financial aid advising by the Scholarship Manager for Schmidt Vocal Arts. For 2020, over \$450,000 in scholarship aid was awarded to aspiring singers pursuing a career in music.

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About Schmidt Vocal Arts

Schmidt Vocal Arts is committed to fostering a passion for classical singing and creating opportunities for young singers to propel them on their journey toward a career in the arts. Schmidt Vocal Arts programs include: **Schmidt Vocal Competition**, a day-long competition held annually in select locations throughout the U.S. for aspiring high school singers to perform, learn and compete for cash awards; **Schmidt Vocal Institute**, a two-week intensive summer residential program where singers learn from world-renowned artists, participate in workshops and master classes, and perform with other talented musicians; **Schmidt Vocal Education**, offering regional programs for singers and teachers to learn, challenge themselves, and participate in performance experiences; and **Schmidt Vocal Scholarships**, a program that provides need-based support for talented singers continuing their professional vocal education. Many accomplished Schmidt Vocal Arts alumni have gone on to pursue music degrees and enjoy successful careers in the arts. Schmidt Vocal Arts is funded by the William E. Schmidt Foundation, which encourages aspiring young singers to pursue their passion in vocal arts and provides support and inspiration to future generations of singers