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## **Schmidt Vocal Arts Announces Winners of its Pennsylvania Regional Competition, Held November 1**



*(L-R) Mia Mortman (2<sup>nd</sup>), Eva Capron (1<sup>st</sup>), Luz Velazquez (3<sup>rd</sup>)*

### *Three Prizewinners Advance to National Competition in May*

**[Covington, KY, November 3, 2025]**—[Schmidt Vocal Arts](https://www.schmidtarts.com) (SVA), a national organization for pre-professional classical singers, is pleased to announce the winners of its 2025-26 Pennsylvania Regional Competition, held at Temple University in Philadelphia on Saturday, November 1, 2025.

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

**Eva Capron**, New York, NY  
**Mia Mortman**, McLean, VA  
**Luz Velazquez**, Bronx, NY

Twenty-one talented high school singers from six states across the mid-Atlantic region (PA, NJ, NY, DE, MD, and VA) competed for cash prizes and the opportunity to advance to Schmidt Vocal Arts' National Competition in May 2026.

Saturday's jury—mezzo-soprano Dr. Kathryn Leemhuis, Assistant Professor of Voice and Opera at Temple University; soprano Amanda Majeski, voice faculty at DePaul University and the Curtis Institute of Music; and bass-baritone Ken Shaw, Professor of Voice at Cincinnati CCM—selected eight singers for the final round, each of whom received a \$250 award for advancing.

Three singers were selected for participation in a master class with the judges prior to the final round of competition, and four singers received cash prizes of \$100 for Encouragement, Most Promising Sophomore, and Broadway Bound awards.

### **FINALISTS**

<b>Sibel Ayyildiz</b>	Special Music School High School, New York, NY
<b>Eva Capron</b>	LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, New York, NY
<b>Aleksii Erokhina</b>	LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, Staten Island, NY
<b>David Isaak</b>	LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, Brooklyn, NY
<b>Mia Mortman</b>	McLean High School, McLean, VA
<b>Monique Tian</b>	Cab Calloway School of the Arts, Newark, DE
<b>Luz Velazquez</b>	Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, Bronx, NY
<b>Zachary Whelan</b>	Special Music School High School, New York, NY

### **ADDITIONAL PRIZES**

Encouragement Award	<b>Ethan Flores</b> , West Grove, PA
Encouragement Award	<b>Anne-Cécile Kittila</b> , Wilmington, DE
Most Promising Sophomore	<b>Aleksii Erokhina</b> , Staten Island, NY
Broadway Bound	<b>Athena Matthes</b> , Morrisville, PA

The three top prizewinners now advance to the National Competition in May 2026, and received awards of \$2,500, \$2,000, and \$1,500. They are now also eligible to apply for college scholarships from Schmidt Vocal Arts, which awards more than \$500,000 each year to its applicants to support their higher education.



Eleven more [regional competitions](#), as well as one online, for high school students take place across the country throughout the 2025-26 season prior to the National Competition in May 2026 at Sarasota Opera.

All Schmidt Vocal Arts programs are funded by the **William E. Schmidt Foundation**. Since debuting in 1997, the Schmidt Vocal Competitions have touched the lives of more than 6,500 developing singers, this year awarding a total of \$650,000 in cash prizes and scholarships in pursuit of Schmidt Vocal Arts' mission to foster a passion in young artists for classical singing and create opportunities to propel them on their journey toward a career in the arts.

### **ABOUT SCHMIDT VOCAL ARTS**

Funded by the William E. Schmidt Foundation, Schmidt Vocal Arts is committed to fostering a passion for classical singing and to creating opportunities for young singers. Led by Executive Director Linda McAlister, Schmidt Vocal Arts boasts many accomplished alumni who have gone on to pursue music degrees and enjoy successful careers in the arts. The Schmidt Vocal Competitions—the oldest of the Foundation's programs—have touched the lives of more than 5,000 developing high school and undergraduate singers, awarding a total of over \$2 million in cash awards and scholarships since its debut in 1997. Other Schmidt Vocal Arts programs include:

- 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 and online 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.

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