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Schmidt Vocal Arts Announces Winners of its Georgia Regional Competition, Held March 7



(L-R) Mallory Goddard (2nd), Olivia Scott (1st), Nik Epstein (3rd)

Three Prizewinners Advance to National Competition in May

[Covington, KY, March 10, 2026]—[Schmidt Vocal Arts](https://www.schmidtarts.org) (SVA), a national organization for pre-professional classical singers, is pleased to announce the winners of its 2025-26 Georgia Regional Competition, held at Georgia State University on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

First Place

Olivia Scott, Buford, GA

Second Place
Third Place

Mallory Goddard, Stuart, FL
Nik Epstein, Aberdeen, NC

Thirty talented high school singers from Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia competed for cash prizes and the opportunity to advance to Schmidt Vocal Arts' National Competition in May 2026.

Saturday's jury—baritone Weston Hurt; soprano Caitlin Lynch, Associate Professor of Music and Professor of Voice & Opera at the University of Michigan; and pianist Samuel Martin, Director of Vocal Studies at The Hartt School—selected ten singers for the final round, each of whom received a \$250 award for advancing.

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

FINALISTS

Victoria Acosta Colon
Harrison Bieschke
Chloe Bremer
Nik Epstein

Seckinger High School, Buford, GA
Christ School, Lebanon, TN
Greater Atlanta Christian School, Lilburn, GA
University of North Carolina School of the Arts – High School Program, Aberdeen, NC
Martin County High School, Stuart, FL
Alabama School of Fine Arts, Goodwater, AL
Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham, AL
Mt. Juliet High School, Mt. Juliet, TN
DeKalb School of the Arts, Avondale Estates, GA
Homeschool, Buford, GA

Mallory Goddard
Kingston Goodgame
Brennan Antoinette Odom
Josephine Packard
Samantha Ralston
Olivia Scott

ADDITIONAL PRIZES

Encouragement Award
Encouragement Award
Encouragement Award

Miguel Alicea, Jr., New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL
Elizabeth Clegg, Fine Arts Center, Greer, SC
Kingston Goodgame, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Goodwater, AL

Most Promising
Sophomore

Olivia Scott, Homeschool, Buford, GA

The three top prizewinners from each regional 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.

Four 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 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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