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Schmidt Vocal Arts Announces Winners of its Final 2025-26 Regional Competition on May 10 in Massachusetts



(L-R) Ruth Anne Sowa (2nd), Zadia Danon (1st), Claire Park (3rd)

Three Prizewinners Advance to National Competition Later this Month

[Covington, KY, May 11, 2026]—**Schmidt Vocal Arts** (SVA), a national organization for pre-professional classical singers, is pleased to announce the winners of its final 2025-26 Regional Competition, held at Boston Conservatory in Boston on Sunday, May 10, 2026.

First Place
Second Place
Third Place

Zadia Danon, Brooklyn, NY
Ruth Anne Sowa, Medford, MA
Claire Park, Newton, MA

Twenty-eight talented high school singers from California, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York competed for cash prizes and the opportunity to advance to Schmidt Vocal Arts' National Competition later this month.

Sunday's jury—baritone Joshua Conyers, Assistant Professor of Voice at Eastman School of Music; mezzo-soprano Dr. Rebecca Folsom, Professor of Voice at Boston Conservatory at Berklee; and Dr. Carleen Graham, Dean of the Division of Vocal Arts and Collaborative Piano at Manhattan School of Music—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 prior to the final round of competition, and four cash prizes of \$100 were awarded for Encouragement and Most Promising Sophomore.

FINALISTS

Oliver Anderson	York Preparatory School, New York, NY
Arjun Bhayani	Milton Academy, Milton, MA
Zadia Danon	LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, Brooklyn, NY
Sean Haynie	Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN
Angel Martinez	LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, New York, NY
Gabriel Mendez	Doral Performing Arts and Entertainment Academy, Miami, FL
Claire Park	The Winsor School, Newton, MA
Ruth Anne Sowa	Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Medford, MA

ADDITIONAL PRIZES

Encouragement Award	Nathaniel Codio , Boston Arts Academy, Dorchester, MA
Encouragement Award	Angel Martinez , LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, New York, NY
Encouragement Award	Anya Vidya Shyamsunder , LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, New York, NY
Most Promising Sophomore	Claire Park , The Winsor School, Newton, MA

The three top prizewinners from each regional now advance to the National Competition in Sarasota later this month, 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.

Schmidt Vocal Arts' Fifth Annual National Vocal Competition for high school singers takes place on May 30 and 31 at Sarasota Opera in Sarasota, Florida.

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 \$5 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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