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Schmidt Vocal Arts Announces Winners of its Florida and Southern California Regional Competitions Held October 25



*(L-R) Ryhanna Tarte (2nd), Laura Suarez (1st),
Kennedy Davenport (3rd)*



*(L-R) Lev Sakae Taira (3rd), Tiffany Carr (1st),
Isabel Calvo (2nd)*

Three Prizewinners From Each Advance to National Competition in May

[Covington, KY, October 28, 2025]—[Schmidt Vocal Arts](https://www.schmidt.org) (SVA), a national organization for pre-professional classical singers, is pleased to announce the winners of its 2025-26 Florida and Southern California Regional Competitions, held at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida and in Chapman University in Orange, California on Saturday, October 25, 2025.

FLORIDA

First Place
Second Place
Third Place

Laura Suarez, Miami, FL
Ryhanna Tarte, Boynton Beach, FL
Kennedy Davenport, Lakeland, FL

CALIFORNIA

First Place
Second Place
Third Place

Tiffany Carr, Rowland Heights, CA
Isabel Calvo, Orange, CA
Lev Sakae Taira, La Cañada, CA

Fifty-five talented high school singers--27 from across Florida, and 28 from Southern California and Arizona—competed for cash prizes and the opportunity to advance to Schmidt Vocal Arts' National Competition in May 2026.

Saturday's adjudicators selected the groups of singers for the final rounds, each of whom received a \$250 award for advancing.

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

FLORIDA FINALISTS and AWARD RECIPIENTS

Tavarus Burgess, Jr.	Lakeland, FL; Harrison School for the Arts
Kennedy Davenport	Lakeland, FL; Harrison School for the Arts
Lila Fuchs	Boca Raton, FL; Homeschooled
Kaiden Gosnell	Lakeland, FL; Harrison School for the Arts
Jeremy Jones	Lakeland, FL; Harrison School for the Arts
Laura Suarez	Miami, FL; New World School of the Arts
Ryhanna Tarte	Boynton Beach, FL; West Boca Community High School
Ailey Tetrault	Delray Beach, FL; Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts
Ella Zarkos	Dover, FL; Homeschooled

Encouragement Award	Mikayla Williams , Delray Beach, FL
Encouragement Award	Sabrina Zambrano , Palm City, FL
Encouragement Award	Ella Zarkos , Dover, FL

Most Promising Sophomore	Bella Rosario , Lakeland, FL
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Broadway Bound	Emma Bambrey , Lehigh Acres, FL
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Florida judges: mezzo-soprano Kathryn Hartgrove, Professor of Voice at Georgia State University; mezzo-soprano Dr. Rebecca Folsom, Professor of Voice at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee; and soprano Dr. Bronwen Forbay, Associate Professor of Voice at Furman University

So. CALIFORNIA FINALISTS and AWARD RECIPIENTS

Hope Bradley	Anaheim, CA; Orange County School of the Arts
Isabel Calvo	Orange, CA; Fullerton Union High School
Tiffany Carr	Rowland Heights, CA; Orange County School of the Arts
Henry Chung	La Mirada, CA; Orange County School of the Arts
Lucy Glow	Phoenix, AZ; Sunnyslope High School
Reese Guenther-Clark	Long Beach, CA; Orange County School of the Arts
Erica Lee	Placentia, CA; Valencia High School
Leah Navarro	San Clemente, CA; Orange County School of the Arts
Lev Sakae Taira	La Cañada, CA; Laurel Springs School

Encouragement Award	Cadence Bleakley , Alisa Viejo, CA
Encouragement Award	Hope Bradley , Anaheim, CA
Encouragement Award	Sophia Li , Los Angeles, CA
Encouragement Award	Olivia Xia , San Diego, CA

Most Promising Sophomore	Lucy Glow , Phoenix, AZ
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So. California judges: baritone Dr. Marc Callahan, Associate Professor and Director of Opera Chapman; soprano Dr. Carol Ann Allred, Assistant Professor of Voice at University of Utah; and soprano Irimi Kyriakidou-Hymel, Instructor of Voice at Loyola University

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.

Twelve more [regional competitions](#), as well as one online competition, 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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