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## **Schmidt Vocal Arts Announces Winners of its Ohio Regional Competition, Held November 22**



*(L-R) Erin-Grace Rudd (3rd), William Perkins (1st), Thomas Prince (2nd)*

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

**[Covington, KY, November 25, 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 Ohio Regional Competition, held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio on Saturday, November 22, 2025.

First Place	<b>William Perkins</b> , Detroit, MI
Second Place	<b>Thomas Prince</b> , Detroit, MI
Third Place	<b>Erin-Grace Rudd</b> , Royalton, KY

Eighteen talented high school singers from Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky competed for cash prizes and the opportunity to advance to Schmidt Vocal Arts' National Competition in May 2026.

Saturday's jury—soprano Dr. Alison Acord, Teaching Professor of Voice at Miami University of Ohio; mezzo-soprano Karen Brunssen, Co-chair of Northwestern University's Department of Music Performance; and baritone Dr. Raymond Feener, Associate Professor of Voice and Chair of the Vocal Studies Division at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory—selected seven singers for the final round, each of whom received a \$250 award for advancing.

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

### **FINALISTS**

<b>Genevieve Howard</b>	Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport, KY
<b>Cameron Krisiewicz</b>	Upper Arlington High School, Columbus, OH
<b>William Perkins</b>	Detroit School of the Arts, Detroit, MI
<b>Thomas Prince</b>	Detroit School of the Arts, Detroit, MI
<b>Erin-Grace Rudd</b>	Magoffin County High School, Royalton, KY
<b>Jenavieve Southcombe</b>	School for Creative and Performing Arts, Cincinnati, OH
<b>Samuel Vega Angeles</b>	Conner Senior High School, Hebron, KY

### **ADDITIONAL PRIZES**

Encouragement Award	<b>Emerson Benbrahim</b> , Vandalia, OH
Most Promising Sophomore	<b>Jenavieve Southcombe</b> , School for Creative and Performing Arts, Cincinnati, OH
Broadway Bound	<b>Evelyn Wackler</b> , Cincinnati, OH

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.

Nine 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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