



Gordon C. Wallis Opera Competition - Regulations

In July 1999, prior to his death, Gordon Wallis established an opera competition to encourage and assist young Saskatchewan singers in furthering their vocal studies in opera. Held every two years under the administration of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, its \$5,000 first-place prize is one of a kind in Canada. In addition to the prize money, the winner may be featured as guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

The next Wallis Opera Competition will be held February 21-22, 2026 in Saskatoon.

The competition is open to non-professional* vocalists, between 20 and 35 years of age. Age restrictions are as of December 31 of the year preceding the competition. Previous first-place winners of the Opera Competition are not eligible to enter. Only those of talent and industry, who have the necessary potential for a possible career in the operatic world, should consider entering the competition, otherwise no scholarship will be awarded. Scholarships must be used to further vocal studies in opera and will be paid directly to a recognized school of music or teacher of the winner's choice.

**A non-professional musician is defined as a person whose principal means of livelihood is not obtained from the performance of music in the particular category in which he or she is competing. This stipulation, however, does not preclude such a person having occasionally received remuneration for musical services rendered, even in the area in which he or she is competing.*

Competitors must:

- live or study in the Province of Saskatchewan, **with the inclusion of Lloydminster, AB, OR** if studying outside of the province, have competed in a Saskatchewan Music Festival within the preceding five years.
- perform the following to a maximum of 20 minutes:
 - one art song in any style
 - two contrasting arias from the standard operatic repertoire, in two different languages, and from two different periods
- provide a brief synopsis of the opera (on the entry form) for each selection to be performed.
- provide their own collaborative pianist and page turner, and be responsible for their own expenses.
- provide 1 **original** score or authorized copy for the judges; the **collaborative pianist** must perform from another **original score**; photocopied copyright music **will not be accepted**.
- **number** the first bar of each line in their scores.
- **submit an entry form online by January 15** along with the fee of \$150, a biographical paragraph, photo, and a brief synopsis of each selection.

Failure to comply with competition regulations may result in disqualification. No changes to repertoire will be permitted after the entry close date. A master class will be offered following the competition. The winner is announced at the end of the master class. **All competitors must attend the entire master class and be in attendance for the announcement of the winner.** *The judges' decision is final.*