

Dear 2011 **FINALIST**,

CONGRATULATIONS! You have been selected to be in the final competition for the "Spotlight On Talent" contest. ALL of our finalists are winners because the competition was so stiff! Included are the comments from the preliminary judges to help you prepare for the finals. PLEASE NOTE – if a comment slip with a slash across it is included, it is from the producer/timer and is included just for your information. These scores were not included in the judging totals. Keep in mind that in this type of contest we have to have a panel of judges with a variety of backgrounds. That means that a “dance” judge has to do their best in judging piano and vocal performances, and vice-versa. Also remember that different judges have a different range of scores they use – what is a lower number from one judge could be one of that judge’s higher scores. **Concentrate on the comments.**

YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION!! You, your parents and teachers need to read this to be prepared even if you have been in it before, things change each year!

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COMPETITION

- We will have **TWO final contests** on **Saturday, March 26, 2011**, in the same Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel as the auditions. **You are in “Act I” at 12:00 noon.**
- **TICKETS** for adults are \$12 or both shows for \$20. For students through high school the fee is \$6, both shows for \$10 (under 5 is free). Designated chaperones for groups (see below) **DO NOT** have to buy a ticket but need to register to get their “chaperone pass”. Parents and teachers **DO** have to purchase tickets. Teachers, register at table and pay for a “teacher pass” for pre-show meeting and show (see below).
- Because of sound checks, doors will not open until 11:30.
- Reminder-no personal videotaping. You can order your professional DVD at the finals with the enclosed order form. Extra forms will be available at the show.
- Personal snapshots are fine. In addition, **Gary Hatrick** is our official snapshot photographer. Order prints by contacting highroadzhills@aol.com.
- If you have any **props or instruments**, have them back stage before the show begins.
- For emergencies the day of the show, producers’ cell phone #s are 352-424-0135 or 813-469-2040.

SOUND CHECKS

- We do want anyone interested in a sound check with mics to do so, and pianists can run-through on the stage piano. **Sound checks** will be done in the same order as the show. Category 1 – 9:40 am, Category 2 at 9:50, all non-piano Groups at 10:10. Please bring an extra CD with you in case of sound “emergencies”. All **solo and group pianists** can run-through on the stage piano at 10:35 am.
- After registering in the lobby, proceed into the auditorium. We will have 3 chaperone backstage passes for each group with the registrar. One of those designated chaperones may pick up the group backstage passes for all their chaperones and students. Chaperones need to wear their passes at all times.
- Sound checks are not a practice, and you will probably not be able to finish your entire piece.
- Before or after your sound check, take your performance attire backstage and change if you wish.

TURN OVER THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

SOUND CHECKS CONTINUED

- If coming for a **sound check, parents and/or teachers** can come in with you, but parents will be asked to exit and clear the auditorium by 11:15 for the pre-show meeting. When they exit they can get in line to buy tickets. We are sorry, but parents who come for sound checks **may not** leave personal items in the auditorium and **may not reserve** any seats. That would not be fair to the families of talents which do not require sound checks.

PARTICIPANT PRE-SHOW MEETING

- There will be a meeting for all participants, any interested teachers, and approved group chaperones in the auditorium from 11:15 to 11:30. We will introduce some of the important HACA volunteers who will help you during the show, go over stage instructions for bios and awards and other important instructions as well as answer questions. If you are not able to attend this meeting, you must get pre-approval by the Producers.
- You can be backstage before or after the meeting to drop off costumes/makeup/props, get ready, etc. but **NOT DURING THIS MEETING**.

WHERE YOU SHOULD BE DURING THE SHOW

- If you don't need a sound check, you need to arrive **no later than 11:15 for the meeting**. Sign in at the lobby table where you will be given a color-coded backstage pass. **Wear it at all times except on stage.**
- **NO PARENTS OR EXTRA FRIENDS ARE ALLOWED BACKSTAGE** after 11:45.
- **All solo contestants** will be directed backstage after the meeting, where you will stay until your Category has been awarded. NOTE – the chorus room will be where you will wait and warm up **UNTIL CALLED**, while watching the show on the monitor. Other rooms will be designated changing rooms, and will be labeled.
- After each category's awards are given out, soloists are escorted into the back left of the auditorium, where **ONE** family member can sit with them if they wish. You'll be seated together in the back left until at least intermission, and you may stay there through the Groups also.
- If in **category 1 and a group**, you may remain backstage to change costume/make-up if you need to.
- Right before intermission the MC will announce when it is time for the Groups to go backstage. It is important that you are sitting down during the show and not hanging around in the restrooms or lobby. No one is allowed to go down the side ramp to backstage until called with your category.
- During intermission **Group** contestants, parents, and chaperones can go backstage to prepare costumes, makeup, etc., but the parents will have to vacate backstage at the end of intermission.
- **Contestants who are in only a group** need to be in the auditorium and be in your seats for the show **by 11:45**. You may take costumes & makeup backstage but need to be back in your seat **at 11:45**.
- Each group may have up to 1 adult per child sitting with them in the auditorium, and should have **at the most 3 designated chaperones to be with each group backstage during the performances**. We can provide additional helpers if requested.
- Out of courtesy for all performers, parents and family should not leave the auditorium until intermission or the end of the show.

ON STAGE

- There will be a taped line near the front of the stage. Please stay behind that mark as you perform.
- We will see and award each of the categories one at a time. Details for bios and awards will be discussed at the pre-show meeting.

WINNERS

- **Prize winners will need to remain momentarily backstage for pictures.**

Remember to **SMILE, ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUDIENCE, and HAVE FUN!** If you have any questions or concerns, please email the producer at spotlight@heritagearts.org or call Mrs. Friedman at (352) 567-1720, mornings or evenings only. If no answer, leave a message.

Thank you very much for your participation and **BREAK A LEG!**