**Spotlight on Talent**

**36th Annual Youth Talent Competition**

 **presented by**

**Heritage Arts Center Association**

**P.O. Box 1131, Dade City, FL 33526**

**ATTENTION, SCHOOL PERSONNEL !!**

It’s time to let your talented students know about the biggest, most exciting performance competition available in this area! This is an opportunity for them to compete in front of a panel of paid professional judges, to win cash prizes and trophies, and perform in front of an audience of hundreds !

**\*\*\* MUSIC TEACHER(S) \*\*\***

This is the 36th year that our non-profit arts group has produced the “***Spotlight on Talent***” competition, and it gets bigger and better each year. It is VERY popular with the students, and every year hundreds of talented children up through 12th grade audition. We award over $4,000 in cash prizes, trophies and ribbons! We will also present our 7th annual **scholarship award of $1,000** that will be given to a Pasco county senior at the finals competition.

Soloists and groups can submit their info at heritagearts.org. Alternatively, paper application forms are also available for download at the website, and we have included samples of these forms in your packet, which you may duplicate. Please help us promote this event in several ways. First, encourage your own students to be a part of the contest. Also, display the enclosed poster and make sure your school has made several announcements over the intercom to ALL students. A special note - if you have a talented student who would like to participate but would have trouble affording the entry fee, please contact us. Our board can provide assistance with the help of some local organizations that have offered to help sponsor a student.

Our web site, heritagearts.org, will have additional information, application forms, competition schedules, rules and informational letters, photos, etc. Check it out!

\*\*\* **PERSON IN CHARGE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ALL STUDENTS\*\*\***

Please make sure the following announcement is made to all students in your school on **two** different days **as early in December as possible**:

"Do you dream of performing onstage, or have plans to earn a performing arts college scholarship? Prepare first in a local competition, “**Spotlight on Talent”,** that is for talented performers up through grade 12. Vocalists, dancers, instrumental musicians, bands, baton twirlers, piano players, gymnasts and any form of entertainment are welcome to participate. There are solo and group categories. You may enter both as a soloist and with one group. Entry deadline is January 24. The preliminary competition is **Saturday, February 9**, and the final contest is **Saturday, March 9**. All events take place at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High. **Over $4,000** total in cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to winners in several age categories and groups. An exciting addition to the prizes is a **$1,000 scholarship** awarded to our highest scoring Pasco county senior student. Solo and Group acts, submit your application electronically through the website - heritagearts.org, or paper applications can be downloaded at the website, or our music teacher has applications. We hope that many of you will enter this exciting competition. Check out heritagearts.org for all the important details.”

Also please make sure this announcement is made **twice** during the **week of January 7 - 11**:

"This reminder is for all students who are planning to participate in the “**Spotlight on Talent”** contest on Saturday, March 9. The deadline for applications is coming up soon on Thursday, January 24. Submit your application online at heritagearts.org, or mail in your paper form today.”

Thank you for your cooperation concerning this very exciting opportunity. We know you wouldn’t want any of your students to be crushed if they found out about this too late. If you have questions, email spotlight@heritagearts.org, or call me at (352) 567-1720. Thanks!

 Barbara Friedman, executive producer Barbara Friedman, Producer