

## **Welcome, Spotlight 2021 Contestant!**

Contestants, parents/guardians, teachers – carefully read this important information – print it up and keep for your reference. Of course, our procedures this year will be very different because of the COVID virus! This letter will be posted on our web page at [heritagearts.org/Spotlight](http://heritagearts.org/Spotlight).

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- The competition will be held on Saturday, March 6, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church, 37628 Church Avenue, Dade City, FL 33525, in the Christian Life Center.
- All contestants will need to come already dressed and warmed up – there will be no rooms for that available in building.
- All must wear masks and keep socially distanced at all times.
- Performers may remove mask during your actual performance onstage if you'd like.
- Registration will be around the left side and to the back of the main sanctuary building. We will have signs directing you.
- For each act, a parent/guardian/teacher will need to sign a covid release (which will be posted on the web site to pre-read) at registration, protecting HACA and volunteers.
- If you perform with and have sent in a mp3 – have a backup thumb drive of the accompaniment with you, and keep it with you or your teacher at the seats. We'll call for it if needed.
- There will be no refreshments available.
- No food, drinks, or gum allowed in the building.
- If you have props, you must arrive 45 minutes before your scheduled time and immediately take them around to the right of the CLC building and to a back door. We will have signs directing you. Pianists – if special pedal props for small students are needed, they may be set up by teacher/parent.
- Performance area: We will not be using a stage. We will have a performance area taped out on the floor. The size will be comparable to the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel(our usual venue).
- The judges will be using a 50 point range of scores – 40 for raw talent, 5 for stage presence, and 5 for appropriate appearance.
- Personal snapshots will be fine, but use NO FLASH.
- Gary Hatrick is our official snapshot photographer. Order prints from [highroadzhills@aol.com](mailto:highroadzhills@aol.com).
- Performances and awards will be professionally videotaped and available to order.

### **VOCAL PERFORMANCES – song, drama, speech**

- Covid restrictions prohibit us from using any individual microphones this year!
- Therefore, we will not have sound checks.
- Keep in mind – There will be no audience, and judges will be able to hear each contestant

### **SOLOS:**

- Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled time to register and get seated – no earlier.

- An usher will seat each contestant inside the CLC with only either one parent or a teacher. This is different with groups.
- After all performances in each age category, awards will be given. You will be asked to stand while the announcer reads the bio information you gave on your application. Winners will be instructed where to pick up your award and have our photographer get a winner's photo, then a photo of all the winners in that category.
- You will then be instructed to go to the tabulation table, pick up your prize check, and return to your family group for exit instructions.

**GROUPS:**

- Groups must arrive 45 minutes before scheduled time, and, if you have props, a few people immediately take them around to the right side of the CLC building to a back door. We will have signs directing you. The groups are to go around to the left of the main sanctuary building to the registration area and stay together with any parents/guardians/teacher, and an usher will escort you to and into the CLC building.
- For registration, one teacher/adult representative will sign in and sign the covid release for the group.
- Once at the CLC entrance most Parents/guardians/teachers will need to stay socially distanced outside, and only one representative and one teacher will be escorted inside the CLC and seated by usher/host. This is different for solos.
- After the performance, the group will head outside. One representative of each group and teacher will remain inside for the award presentation and to get your check. For the group winner photos, Gary will meet you outside after the trophies are awarded, in front of the right side of the CLC building.

**FOLLOW UP:**

- After the competition, you will be sent by email a copy of the judges' comments.

If you have any questions or concerns, email [spotlight@heritagearts.org](mailto:spotlight@heritagearts.org), or call 352-567-1720.  
Thanks so much for entering! Enjoy the Spotlight experience!

Barbara Friedman, Executive Producer