

Dear **2024 MATINEE SHOW 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 with this email are the comments from the preliminary judges to help you prepare for the finals.

YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION!!

You, parents, chaperones & teachers need to have this information to be prepared.

GENERAL INFO

- We will have two final contests on **Saturday, March 16, 2024**, in the same Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel as the auditions. **You are in the Matinee Show at 12:00 p.m.**
- **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). **Parents DO** have to purchase tickets. Solo and Group-designated **chaperones** (see below) and **teachers DO NOT** have to buy a ticket but need to register in the lobby to get their "chaperone/teacher pass". Passes get them entrance into pre-show meeting, auditorium and backstage at the right times (see below). **No chaperones or teachers are allowed onto the backstage wings area, even with a pass.**
- **This year you can purchase tickets online (credit card only) by going to heritagearts.org and clicking on "Purchase Tickets". Tickets are available at the door (cash, check or credit card).**
- Because of sound checks, doors to ticket holders will not open until after 11:30.
- **NEW** – this year we are allowing families to videotape at the finals. You may not use a tripod or stand to do that, as that would block the view of those behind you. At the finals there will be a sign-up sheet with info about purchasing a video.
- Personal snapshots are fine-**NO FLASH**. **Gary Hatrick** is our official snapshot photographer. Order prints from prelims & finals - highroadzhills@aol.com.
- Any **props or instruments** go back stage before pre-show meeting.
- **We are allowing 1 optional chaperone for solos in addition to group chaperones. Duets can have 2 chaperone passes, and groups of 3 or more will have 3 available.** Passes are available at registrar table (**wear them at all times**). Any chaperone may pick up the group backstage passes for all their chaperones and students. Chaperones can help to sit w/ the student(s) in the auditorium, help in backstage dressing rooms, help line up in the hallway, and then a HACA volunteer will take it from there. **They cannot go thru stage doors to the backstage wings area.** You can watch the performance and awards on the TVs in dressing/warm-up rooms or return to the auditorium.
- For emergencies the day of the show, the producers cell phone # is 352-424-0135.

PARTICIPANT PRE-SHOW MEETING

- There will be a meeting for all participants, any interested teachers, and chaperones w/ passes 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 procedures, 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.
- Participants can be backstage before or after the meeting to drop off costumes/makeup/props, get ready, etc. but **NOT DURING THIS MEETING.** **(KEEP READING!.....)**

SOUND CHECKS

- **Anyone using mics and want a sound check can do so, including pianists on the stage piano**
- **NEW-dancers can come & get the feel of the stage – BEFORE they register – then register.**
- **Dancers = 9:45, Solo Category 1 = 9:55, Solo Category 2 = 10:00, Solo Category 3 = 10:25, Groups = 10:30, All pianists = 10:40.**
- Get pass in lobby (except for dancers), and then proceed into the auditorium.
- Sound checks are not a practice, and you may not be able to finish your entire piece.
- Before or after your sound check, take your performance attire backstage and change if you wish.
- 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 **11:10** for the pre-show meeting. When they exit, they can get tickets and wait to re-enter. Parents who come for sound checks **may not** leave personal items in auditorium **or reserve** any seats, in fairness to non-sound check families.

WHERE YOU SHOULD BE

- **All awards will be announced at the end of the show.** Details for awards and bios will be discussed at the pre-show meeting – see that section.
- If you don't need a sound check, arrive **no later than 11:00 to be on time for the 11:15 meeting.** Sign in at the registrar table, pick up a color-coded backstage pass. Wear it at all times except while competing on stage **and turn in lanyards before leaving.**
- **NO PARENTS or EXTRA FRIENDS ARE ALLOWED BACKSTAGE** after 11:45.
- **All acts** - There is a **Warm-up Room (w/piano)** where you can wait, warm up, & stretch until called, the show is on a monitor. Other rooms will be designated changing rooms and will be labeled.
- **The show layout this year** – Solo Category 1 (Grades 3-5), Solo Category 2 (Grades 6&7), Intermission. 2nd half = Solo Category 3 (Grade 8), then Younger Groups Category 4, **AND LASTLY THE AWARD PRESENTATION.**
- **Solo Category 1 & 2 – backstage after pre-show meeting.**
- **Solo Category 3 & 4 – not backstage until intermission.**
- **Category 1, 2 or 3 (if not also in a group)** – compete, come out for bios one at a time, exit from backstage and sit in auditorium or with family until Groups are done competing. Come backstage again during Group bios to get ready for Awards.
- If a group or contestant need more help than the allowed chaperones, HACA can provide additional helpers if requested.
- **Any Solo Category 1 or 2 contestant ALSO IN a Group** can remain backstage through intermission until the end of the show and Awards Presentation to change costume/make-up, if you need to.
- **During intermission** – All contestants, parents, and chaperones can be backstage to prepare/clean up costumes, makeup, etc., but the parents will have to vacate backstage at the end of intermission.

Remember to SMILE, ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUDIENCE, & HAVE FUN!

Questions or concerns, email the producers at spotlight@heritagearts.org or call Barbara Friedman, executive producer, at (352) 424-0135.

Thank you very much for your participation, BREAK A LEG!