



The 15th Annual
Harold Haugh Light Opera
VOCAL COMPETITION

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018
JACKSON SYMPHONY HALL
JACKSON, MICHIGAN

A Competition In Which Operatically Trained Singers Prove They Can Entertain

APPLICATION BOOKLET AND ENTRY FORM

The Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition was formed to honor one of the finest Oratorio Tenors and stage performers of the last century, Harold Alberto Haugh. Upon retirement in 1960, he became active in local theater and starred in six productions for the Comic Opera Guild. Educator (for 34 years) and performer, Prof. Haugh died in 2000, aged 94.

RULES

The Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition has no top age limit. It is open to all singers who are **not professionally represented** (under management) or **have not worked full-time as a professional singer**. The competition is also intended to promote the variety of fine music produced by the composers of Light Opera. Singers can choose music from light classical sources that show their acting abilities (see "LIGHT OPERA REPERTORY" on page 5).

APPLICATIONS

Please use the application form included with this booklet, and submit it with the following:

- **A GOOD QUALITY AUDIO CD** demonstrating the applicant's vocal skill. Applicant must include **two** selections on the disc. The selections should be:
 1. A song or solo from the **light opera** repertoire, showing style
 2. An aria from **opera or oratorio**, showing techniqueSelections must be well-recorded and clear. ***A poor recording will be rejected.***
- **A RECENT HEAD SHOT** (8 x 10 preferred, 4 x 6 acceptable)
- **A CHECK FOR \$40*** made out to the Comic Opera Guild, as an audition/application fee and guarantee of appearance.

*There is an \$5.00 charge for digital submissions. See web site for DIGITAL ENTRY FORM.

Send all this information, using either the digital process or in a single envelope to:

Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition
c/o The Comic Opera Guild
3211 Packard Ann Arbor, MI 48108

All submissions must be received (postmarked) by: **FEBRUARY 1, 2018**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Contestants' recordings will be adjudicated, and **contestants will be notified by e-mail if they have been accepted for the semi-final rounds by FEBRUARY 10, 2018**. Audition times are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

PURPOSE

The Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition is operated by the Comic Opera Guild, a semi-professional lyric theater company that has performed in the Ann Arbor area (and toured Michigan/Ohio) for over forty years. The Guild is dedicated to promoting and continuing the tradition of classic musical theater, which is both vocally challenging and appropriate for aspiring vocal professionals. It is also sponsored by the Jackson Symphony Orchestra and by many donors in the Jackson area.

WHAT WINS THIS COMPETITION?

- **SEND A GOOD QUALITY RECORDING.** We expect to have more applicants than we can accommodate. If we can't tell the quality of your voice, you may not make it to the semi-finals. Make sure the miking is not distant, and that there is no distortion or background noise. **SELECTIONS NEED NOT BE THE SAME AS THOSE YOU'RE SINGING.** *Listen to your recording before you send it in. Rerecord it if necessary.*
- **CHOOSE THREE SONGS CAREFULLY.** You **MUST** have **THREE** songs prepared. You will sing a **technical** and a **light opera selection** in both the semis and the finals. Your **technical selection** should show your vocal ability, including range, flexibility, tone, diction, intonation, phrasing, and pronunciation (in the case of foreign language). Your **light opera selection(s) should be contrasting**, and must show acting, creativity, use of the stage, and personality. The third song will be needed if you are chosen for the finals. In the finals you must sing a light opera selection not used in the semi-finals.
- **CHOOSE THE RIGHT SONGS.** Your technical selection must impress the screening committee and the judges. It needs to show that you have the chops to compete with the level of talent that enters this competition. As for the light opera selections, many singers seem to have trouble choosing an appropriate number because they don't know the repertoire. Don't let this hamper you. If you don't know what light opera is, ask someone—your vocal coach preferably, or see SHOWSTOPPERS (page 5). We feel every singer needs to have a show-stopping light opera selection in his or her repertoire. If you don't, now's the time to add one. It will be useful in concerts and auditions to come.
- **SELL YOUR LIGHT OPERA SONG.** Light opera is all about entertainment. **Good singing alone is not enough.** Whether the subject is comedy, romance or anything else, put some time into staging it for yourself. Practice singing your song silently in front of a mirror. Would your audience "get" the idea of your song from this? If not, keep working.
- **DRESS APPROPRIATELY.** You are performing onstage, so make sure you look good to the judges. They can be critical of appearance. You don't need a "costume."
- **PREPARE YOUR ACCOMPANIST.** If you're requesting our accompanist, you **must** send us the sheet music for your songs **with the application** so your accompanist can prepare. If your pianist has to sight-read at the competition, you're taking an unnecessary chance.
- **SAVE YOUR BEST FOR LAST.** Make sure you have chosen a knockout light opera selection for the finals. You will re-sing your technical selection, but your light opera selection must be new.
- **RE-READ THE RULES.** You'd be surprised how many intelligent singers do something silly because they don't read carefully. **If you fail to include your audio files, photo, or payment with your application, you will incur a penalty charge.**

SEMI-FINALS

Singers chosen for the semi-final round will be invited by e-mail or or alternate method to compete in Jackson, Michigan.

Directions to the SEMI-FINALS, held at the Symphony Hall, 215 West Michigan Ave, Jackson, MI will be sent with semi-finalist notification. **The semi-finals will be scheduled from 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday, March 3, 2018.**

If you ask for a specific singing time, we will make every effort to honor your request. Preference will be given to those traveling greater distances to the competition. *Singing times, once assigned, cannot be changed.*

REQUIRED FOR SEMI-FINALS:

FIRST SELECTION - TECHNICAL SKILL (50%)

- **ONE ARIA FROM OPERA OR ORATORIO, FROM MEMORY.**

English translations are allowed. This selection should show the highest level of technical skill you have attained. It need not be musically complex, but should show skills such as accurate intonation, range, power and agility, as well as the pure beauty of your voice.

SECOND SELECTION - ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION (50%)

- **ONE CONTRASTING ARIA FROM LIGHT OPERA, FROM MEMORY.**

The light opera repertory requires acting ability in equal proportion to vocal skill. This makes it potentially more difficult than opera. You will be judged on your ability to “sell” this song. Original language or English translations are allowed. The vocal difficulty of this selection is not the primary consideration. You will be judged on the appropriateness of your movement, attire, expression and use of the stage. You may use small props.

NOTE: TECHNICAL SELECTION MUST BE SUNG FIRST, FOLLOWED BY THE ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION (LIGHT OPERA) SELECTION

Please note:

- *Your selections in the semi-final round need not be the same as the selections on your application recording, which must include one from the LIGHT OPERA repertory.*

FINALS

Finalists, announced after semi-final round, will be presented in public concert for final adjudication on Saturday evening, March 3 at 7:30 pm, at the Jackson Symphony Performance Hall.

Finalists will be posted at the end of the semi-final round, and singers are expected to determine if they are finalists. Instructions on rehearsal time and call time for concert will be given. Order of performance will be chosen at random.

Finalists who use an accompanist provided by COG may be able to arrange time to rehearse for the public concert, if a piano room is available between the semi-finals and the finals, and the accompanist is available. Other finalists may also request piano time, but priority will be given to those with COG-provided accompanists.

REQUIRED FOR FINALS:

- **TWO SONGS OR ARIAS, ONE TECHNICAL and ONE NEW SELECTION FROM THE LIGHT OPERA REPERTORY, BOTH FROM MEMORY**

Be sure to list all three selections on your application (page 7)

All finalists are asked to authorize the recording of the final concert, including their performance, as well as the use of their photograph solely for the promotional use of the HHLOVC.

It is important to understand that technical skill alone will not win this competition. You will be in a theatrical setting and your goal is to act and sing in a way that makes your performance memorable.

2018 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded by check from the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, from funds donated to the orchestra for the Harold Haugh Competition. The first place winner will receive \$3000; Second place will be awarded \$2000; Third place will be awarded \$1000. All other finalists will win \$200.

The audience will choose their favorite performer, to whom the \$200 Roger Wertenberger Prize will be awarded. A Young Singer Award of \$200, given to a promising singer below the age of 21, may be awarded. Please note that the last two awards are independent of the main cash awards.

All entrants, including those not chosen for the semi-finals, will be mailed judges' written comments. Finalists and semi-finalists will be critiqued by the adjudication panel on both vocal technique and artistic presentation.

ACCOMPANISTS

Contestants are responsible for securing their accompanists.

YOUR OWN ACCOMPANIST: Please ensure that your accompanist **is certain he or she can accompany you.** It may be impossible to secure a GUILD accompanist at the last minute due to your person cancelling.

GUILD ACCOMPANIST: One will be provided for a fee of \$50. Please check the appropriate box on your application, and include the fee in your application total. **You must also send a copy of your music with your application for the Guild accompanist to review.** If you have any special instructions on your interpretation, attach them to the music.

In the event a contestant is not chosen for the semi-final rounds, or is unable to attend, the accompanist fee will be returned.

Several semi-private warm-up rooms with pianos will be available to singers and their accompanists prior to auditions. Every effort will be made to give the maximum amount of time to each contestant, although we cannot guarantee equal time or space for all.

If you use your own accompanist, it is your responsibility to have completed rehearsal prior to competition day. Guild accompanists are skilled professionals who will give you accurate accompaniment if you provide them with the music of your selections with your application.

LIGHT OPERA REPERTOIRE

Light Opera as a genre stretches over at least three centuries. The subject matter is typically humorous, romantic or a combination of both, and usually not tragic. **Virtually all light operas have dialog.** Not only is this repertoire more suited to lighter or younger voices, but, in the acting skills it demands, it is preparation for attaining the highest dramatic level of opera. It is set apart from musical comedy only in the need for classical training in the singer. For purposes of the competition, selections from musical comedy may not be as effective if they do not require operatic vocal skills. **The Comic Opera Guild is a resource for sheet music in the light opera genre.**

Sample composers of the genre are given below. Keep in mind that **not all compositions by these composers fall into the light opera repertory.**

If you have questions about a selection, you may inquire by contacting the Guild at (734) 973-3264 or at constu@comcast.net.

GERMAN/VIENNESE

Johann Strauss
Oscar Strauss
Franz Lehár
Franz Von Suppe
Wolfgang Mozart
Emmerich Kalman
Friedrich Von Flotow

SPANISH

Ruperto Chapi
Tomas Breton
Jose Serrano

FRENCH

Jacques Offenbach
Adolph Adam
Ambroise Thomas
Francoise Boieldieu
Charles Lecocq
Robert Planquette
Daniel Auber

It is preferred that Italian opera arias be sung as the TECHNICAL selection.

ENGLISH

Gilbert and Sullivan
Wm. Michael Balfe
Edward German
Alfred Cellier

AMERICAN

Victor Herbert
Sigmund Romberg
Rudolf Friml
Leonard Bernstein
Jerome Kern

AUDITION LIGHT OPERA SHOWSTOPPERS

If you want to study the light opera repertoire in order to choose a selection that might be right for you, go to <http://comicoperaguild.org/PAGES/VOCAL-COMPETITION.html> and click on the SHOWSTOPPERS link to download a list of great numbers. Included with each is a link to a performance of the number on YouTube for you to audition.

WINNERS

The winners of awards in the Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition will be announced after the adjudication at the Finals Concert. Cash awards by check will be made at this time. All winners are requested to credit their final award in the "Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition" in their biographies and resumés following the competition. Press releases will be submitted to area newspapers, as well as to news media in the award winners' cities. Award winners will be asked to provide information on their local media to which a release may be sent.

Please note: The judges reserve the right to withhold any and all prizes, to award honorable mentions and to decide on the size and distribution of prizes. Their decisions are final.

ENJOY THE DAY

The competition provides a catered lunch and a dinner at a local restaurant for all contestants. Following the competition, a reception will be held, at which both finalists and semi-finalists can meet and greet the judges and competition staff, as well as talk with fellow singers.

JUDGING PANEL

Drake Dantzer (tenor) is Head of the Opera Area and an Associate Professor of Music at Oakland University. Dr. Dantzer has performed opera, oratorio, concert, and recital repertoire across North America. He has also served on the faculties of the Vancouver International Song Institute, the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, and the Toledo Opera Camp. Dr. Dantzer holds degrees from Vanderbilt University, the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Texas.

Stanford Olsen, tenor, is Professor of Music and Chair of the Voice Department at the University of Michigan. One of this generation's most successful and versatile artists, his career spans more than 1,200 performances on five continents over the course of 30 years, including performing more than 160 times with New York's Metropolitan Opera.

Robert Peavler serves as Professor of Voice and coordinator of Voice Activities at Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Peavler is the co-author of *The Melodies of Francis Poulenc: A Study Guide* (Scarecrow Press) and can be heard on his recording of *American art song, From the Heartland* (Albany Records- TR1349). He has presented his research at State, Regional, National and International conferences of NATS and the College Music Society.

Thomas Petiet, baritone, Managing Director of the Comic Opera Guild, has produced more than 50 operettas. His vocal repertory includes lead roles in over 30 operas and operettas, and he has also worked as stage director and translator.

Jane Schoonmaker-Rodgers, soprano, is an Associate Professor of Voice at Bowling Green University. Her past operatic work includes appearances with Ohio Light Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Toledo Opera, Michigan Lyric Opera, Ann Arbor Comic Opera Guild, University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society and others in Michigan, Ohio and New York.

David Troiano, tenor, organist and choral director, has appeared in operas, oratorios and voice recitals throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bahamas, and Europe. He has been COG music director for five operettas and can be heard on the majority of the 40 plus recordings of the Victor Herbert Operettas and Jerome Kern Musicals.

COMPETITION STAFF

John Guidinger
Brad Rondeau
Heidi Miles
Margaret Counihan
Thomas Petiet (see bio above)

COMIC OPERA GUILD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elizabeth Sklar, President
Robert Seeman, Vice President
Patricia Petiet, Secretary
George Valenta, Treasurer
Claire Agresta
Barbara Cox-Diamond
Abby Dotz
John Guidinger
David Troiano
Rachelle Warren
Claudia Wier
Brad Rondeau, ex officio
Thomas Petiet, Managing Director

2009 COMPETITION WINNERS

Travis Pratt, baritone "It Ain't Necessarily So" *Porgy and Bess* (Gershwin)
Adam Fry, baritone "Quand La Flamme" *La Jolie Fille du Perch* (Bizet)
Carrie Winter, soprano "So Anchi'io la Virtu" *Don Pasquale* (Donizetti)

2011 COMPETITION WINNERS

Jenni Bank, mezzo-soprano "I Am Easily Assimilated" *Candide* (Bernstein)
Caitlin Cisler, soprano "Glitter and be Gay" *Candide* (Bernstein)
Kathryn Leemhuis, soprano, "What A Movie." *Trouble in Tahiti* (Bernstein)

2012 COMPETITION WINNERS

Kate Tombaugh, Mezzo-Soprano "Sexy Lady" (Moore)
Rainelle Krause, soprano "Olympia's Song" *Tales of Hoffman* (Offenbach)
John Riesen, Tenor, and Laura Strikling, soprano (tie)

2013 COMPETITION WINNERS

John Riesen, Tenor, "Legend Of Kleinzack" *Tales of Hoffman* (Offenbach)
Anne Slovin, soprano "A Simple Sailor" *HMS Pinafore* (Sullivan)
Timothy Bruno, bass, "Wie Will Ich Triumpfieren" *Entfuhrung* (Mozart)

2014 COMPETITION WINNERS

Edward Hanlon, bass "Son Imbrogliato" *La Serva Padrona* (Persolesi)
Rachel Sparrow, soprano "Glitter and Be Gay" *Candide* (Bernstein)
Allan Chan, tenor "A Wand'ring Minstrel" *The Mikado* (Sullivan)

2015 COMPETITION WINNERS

1st- Kisma Jordan, Soprano "Ach, Ich Fuhl's" - *The Magic Flute* (Mozart)
2nd- Heather Mc Callum, mezzo "Cruda Sorte" - *L'Italiana in Algeri* (Rossini)
3rd- Amy Louise Yekel "My Man's Gone Now" - *Porgy and Bess* (Gershwin)
Young Artist Winner - Kyle White, baritone
Audience Favorite - Rachel Sparrow

2016 COMPETITION WINNERS

1st- Ashly Neumann, sop. "Italian Street Song" *Naughty Marietta* (Herbert)
2nd- Emmett O'Hanlon, bar. "Ha! Gia Vinta" *Nozzedi Figaro* (Mozart)
3rd- Josh Lovell, ten. "Ah, Mes Amis" *Fille du Regiment* (Donizetti)
Young Artist Winner - Ryan Hurley, ten. "A Wand'ring Minstrel" *Mikado*
Audience Favorite - Conor Angell, bar. "Oh, Better Far" *Pirates* (G&S)

2017 COMPETITION WINNERS

1st- Josh Lovell, ten. "Ah, Mes Amis" *Fille du Regiment* (Donizetti)
2nd- Katy Clark, sop. "Chacun le Sait" - *La Fille du Regiment* (Donizetti)
3rd- Paulina Villareal, mezzo. "Carceleras" - *Las Hijas del Zebedeo* (Chapi)
Young Artist Winner - Leah Brzyski, sop. "Me llaman la Primorosa" - *El Barbo de Sevilla* (Gimenez)

MAIL-IN APPLICATION FORM *Please complete both sides, detach and mail. Be sure to provide ALL information requested.*
For digital submissions, click on DIGITAL ENTRY link at <http://comicooperaguild.org/PAGES/VOCAL-COMPETITION.html>

Name _____

Current address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Voice Classification _____ Age (as of 3/3/18) _____

I wish to receive Semi-finalist status results by: E-mail _____
phone or mail

I will bring my own accompanist

I require a Guild accompanist. Include \$50.00 accompanist fee
 I have included printed sheet music with this application.

I have included my biographical information

I have included \$40.00 for my entrance fee

I have included a head shot of myself (8" x 10" or 4" x 6" acceptable)

**NOTE: Incomplete applications or attachments will incur a \$5.00 surcharge.*

Application Fee \$40.00

Accompanist Fee \$50.00

TOTAL FEE(S) ENCLOSED \$ _____

List the three selections you will be performing; two for the semi-final round and one additional if chosen for the finals. Please include title, show and composer.

TECHNICAL SELECTION

LIGHT OPERA SELECTION FOR SEMI-FINALS

LIGHT OPERA SELECTION FOR FINALS

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date Rcvd	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Rec. <input type="checkbox"/> Photo
Email	y____ n____
Sent	y____ n____
Aud. Time	_____
Confirmed	y____ n____

BIOGRAPHY:

70 Words or less. Please type or write in the space below or on a separate sheet, and include your voice type (soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, baritone, bass) If no biography is included, only your name and voice type will be displayed in the program.

Please include this form with the other required materials
 (sound recording, check, photo, biography and sheet music, if requesting a Guild accompanist)

Send the above in one envelope to:

Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition
c/o The Comic Opera Guild
3211 Packard
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SATURDAY, FEB. 1, 2018
MATERIALS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.