

GUIDE TO THE 2024 JAMES C. MACDONALD PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

HOSTED BY THE ALDEN AT THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

APPLY NOW [HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/MACDONALD2024](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/macdonald2024)

Important Dates: APPLICATION DEADLINE – JANUARY 26, 2024
 PRELIMINARY ROUNDS – FEBRUARY 5-8, 2024
 FINAL ROUND & AWARDS – APRIL 17, 2024

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to students, grades 9-12, who reside or attend school in Small District 1A of the Dranesville Tax District. Information regarding boundaries for the McLean Community Center district is available by calling (703) 790-0123 or by visiting <https://mcleancenter.org/mclean-tax-district/>. Students must be enrolled in and attending high school on a full-time basis to be eligible for the competition. Participants may enter every year that they meet eligibility requirements. **The application deadline is January 26, 2024 at midnight.**

PRIZES

Scholarship prizes are awarded to the first-, second- and third-place finalists in each of the following categories: dance, theatre, vocal music and instrumental music. A \$1,200 prize is awarded to the first-place winner in each category. The second-place winner in each category is awarded \$800 and the third-place winner in each category is awarded \$400. In 2020, the first-place Instrumental Award was named in memory of Anita Lamkin, a longtime friend of young musicians and supporter of music performances in McLean.

Winning students must possess a valid US Social Security Card and submit a completed W-9 for prizes to be awarded. Prize money is sent as a check from Fairfax County Government within 30 days of receipt of the winner's W9 following the competition.

JUDGES

Professional performing and teaching artists in each of the disciplines act as judges for the competition. All participants who submit a complete application will compete in the preliminary round of their category. Judges select three finalists for each category who will compete in the final round. Finalists will receive notes from the judges. The same judges will choose a first, second and third place winner at the time of the final competition. If, in any round, the judges determine that three finalists of superior artistic ability cannot be identified within a particular category, they reserve the right to limit the

number of awards made in that category or to make no awards in that category. All decisions of the judges are final.

FEE

Students may enter to compete in more than one category, but separate application forms must be completed for each entry. There is a \$20 application fee for each entry. Secure links to pay by credit card or instructions to pay by check (made out to McLean Community Center) can be found at the end of this guide.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

All Participants

- All participants must be available on their category's preliminary round date as well as the final round on April 17th. No exceptions. Preliminary rounds are closed to teachers, families and the public.
- Participants must perform two selections in contrasting styles. Both must be memorized. **The same pieces must be performed in the Final Round.**
- It is recommended that the length of the combined selections and piece introductions be at least 5 minutes but may not exceed 10 minutes. Judges have the option of eliminating participants from the competition who go over the maximum time.
- The preliminary round audition time will be sent to each participant via email during the week of January 29th. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early. The green room will be available privately for each participant 10 minutes prior to their audition. If you need additional warm-up or rehearsal time onsite, please rent a meeting room by contacting Jonathan.Davis@fairfaxcounty.gov. Rooms are not guaranteed and are subject to availability. McLean Community Center does not have practice rooms or pianos in meeting rooms.

Theatre

Preliminary Round: Monday, February 5, 2024, 7-9 p.m.

- A minimal number of props and costume pieces may be used.
- **Need to bring:** four (4) copies of your scripts to the preliminary round for the judges. The name of the play, the playwright and your name must be written clearly at the top of each copy. Copies will not be returned. Alternately, participants may email your scripts to Elizabeth.Katz@fairfaxcounty.gov by Friday, February 2.

Dance

Preliminary Round: Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 7-9 p.m.

- Selections must be solo pieces.
- It is recommended, but not required, that participants dress in appropriate dance wear. Costume changes are not allowed in the preliminary round.
- It is preferred that participants email their music as mp3s or as shared files (like Dropbox or Google) by Friday, February 2, to Elizabeth.Katz@fairfaxcounty.gov. Music on a CD or smartphone is also accepted. Smartphones must be in airplane mode with passwords disabled. It is recommended that you bring a backup CD. Thumb drives and laptops are not permitted.
- **Need to bring:** a printed list of your selections, crediting the music and choreographer. Alternately, participants may email a list to Elizabeth.Katz@fairfaxcounty.gov by Friday, February 2.
- A sound technician will be provided to play your music.

Vocal Music

Preliminary Round: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 7-9 p.m.

- An accompanist is not required. If your performance requires one, participants must provide their own.
- If you need an accompanist, but are unable to provide one, pre-recorded music is permitted.
- A Steinway baby grand is provided, but your accompanist can play any instrument if that is required for your performance.
- **Need to bring:** four (4) copies of your music to the preliminary round for the judges. The name of the piece, the composer and your name must be written clearly at the top of each copy. Copies will not be returned. Alternately, participants may email a PDF of your sheet music to Elizabeth.Katz@fairfaxcounty.gov by Monday, February 5.

Instrumental Music

Preliminary Round: Thursday, February 8, 2024, 7-9 p.m.

- An accompanist is not required. If your performance requires one, participants must provide their own.
- If you need an accompanist, but are unable to provide one, pre-recorded music is permitted.
- A Steinway baby grand is provided for pianists. All other instruments must be provided by the participant. Assistance for moving large instruments can be provided, but must be coordinated by Monday, February 5 by emailing Elizabeth.Katz@fairfaxcounty.gov.
- **Need to bring:** four (4) copies of your music to the preliminary round for the judges. The name of the piece, the composer and your name must be written clearly at the top of each copy. Copies will not be returned. Alternately, participants may email a PDF of your sheet music to Elizabeth.Katz@fairfaxcounty.gov by Monday, February 5.

AFTER PRELIMINARY ROUND

Participants will be notified via email if they are moving on to the Final Round. Generally, this notification will go out to all participants by noon the following day, but please allow up to two business days.

This notification will include guidelines for a brief biography to be included in the program and a blank W-9 form.

Finalists will receive notes from the judges. Participants who do not move on to the Final Round may request their notes from the judges.

Dance and Theatre finalists will have a technical rehearsal on Tuesday, April 16. Rehearsals will take place between 5-9 p.m. Each participant will have a 20-minute time on stage and an additional 10 minutes to ask logistical questions to the producer. Scheduling information will be sent to Finalists.

Technical rehearsals are for the benefit of participants and Alden technicians. Attendance at this rehearsal is necessary and will ensure participants have appropriate cues and lighting, as well as spacing for your performance. Participants are not required to rehearse both pieces.

Dance participants may change shoes, but not costumes. It is highly recommended that dancers wear shoes for all performances.

FINAL ROUND

- Finalists must perform at the final competition to be eligible for any award money. No exceptions.
- **Participants must perform the same pieces from the preliminary round at the final competition.**
- There will be time for all participants, but specifically dancers, to change costumes and shoes between pieces. See sample schedule below for approximate timing.
- Participants should submit their completed W-9 when they check in.

Day of the Finals: Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 8 p.m.

The Finals are an open performance. Please invite friends and family! Guests are not permitted backstage at any time.

6 p.m. - Vocal and Instrumental finalists will arrive for the music technical rehearsal.

Accompanists should arrive at this time also. Each participant will be able to rehearse their pieces on stage.

7:15 p.m. - Dance and Theatre finalists arrive. All participants will rehearse the awards section of the performance.

APPLICATION FEE: PAY ONLINE

All fees are non-refundable. To pay online use one of the following links. If participants compete in multiple categories, they must pay a fee of \$20 for each application.

Theatre: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/31195/store/products/88066>

Dance: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/31195/store/products/88065>

Instrumental Music: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/31195/store/products/88064>

Vocal Music: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/31195/store/products/88067>

APPLICATION FEE: PAY BY CHECK

All fees are non-refundable.

Make checks payable to: McLean Community Center

Include a note with:

1. Full name of participant
2. Email address
3. Category for which participants are applying.

Mail or deliver your check to: McLean Community Center

Attn: Danielle Van Hook, Macdonald Competition
1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia 22101

LINKS

Apply online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Macdonald2024>

Competition website: <https://mcleancenter.org/performing-arts/community-arts-2>

Questions about the Competition: Danielle.VanHook@fairfaxcounty.gov or
Elizabeth.Katz@fairfaxcounty.gov

Room Request: Jonathan.Davis@fairfaxcounty.gov