GUIDE TO THE 2025 JAMES C. MACDONALD PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

HOSTED BY THE ALDEN AT THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Important Dates: APPLICATION DEADLINE – JAN. 27, 2025, AT MIDNIGHT
DIGITAL MUSIC DUE – JAN. 29, 2025
FEE DEADLINE – JAN. 31, 2025
PRELIMINARY ROUNDS – FEB. 3-6, 2025
PROGRAM BIO DUE – MARCH 24, 2025
DANCE/THEATRE TECH REHEARSAL – APRIL 29, 2025
FINAL ROUND & AWARDS – APRIL 30, 2025

APPLY

2025 Macdonald Performing Arts Scholarship Competition Application Survey
Click the link above to register. Participants competing in multiple categories, or with multiple instruments, must register once for each category or instrument.

PAY FEE

https://ci.ovationtix.com/31195/store/products/92029
Click the link above then use the arrow to add the correct quantity to the cart. Participants competing in multiple categories, or with multiple instruments, must pay a fee of $20 for each application. Fees are non-refundable.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to students, grades 9-12, who reside **or** attend school in the McLean Community Center's Tax District. For information regarding boundaries for the McLean Community Center district call (703) 790-0123 or visit 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 they meet eligibility requirements. **The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 27, 2025. Fees must be paid in full by Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.**

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.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

All Participants/All Preliminary Rounds

- All participants must be available on their category's preliminary round date as well as the final round on April 30. No exceptions. Preliminary rounds are closed to teachers, families and the public. Participants may compete only once in each category but may compete in more than one category. The exception is instrumental music: participants may compete in instrumental music with multiple instruments; each instrument is a separate application and each instrument incurs a separate application fee.
- 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 , including introductions, be at least 5 minutes but may not exceed 10 minutes. Judges have the option of eliminating participants from the competition who exceed the maximum time.
- Participants are advised but are not required to introduce themselves and each piece during the preliminary round. This must be included in the 10-minute audition period.
- The preliminary round audition time assignment will be sent via email during the week of Jan. 27. The backstage green room is available for each participant 10 minutes prior to their audition. Only participants and their accompanists are permitted backstage, without exception. Arriving after the scheduled preliminary round time may result in no rehearsal time in the green room and possible removal from the competition.
- If you need additional warm-up or rehearsal time onsite, please rent a meeting room by visiting mcleancenter.org/rentals 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, Feb. 3, 2025, 7-9 p.m.

- Selections must be solo pieces.
- A minimal number of props and costume pieces may be used.
- **Need to submit:** a copy of your script that lists the title of the piece, playwright and your name. **This must be emailed 24 hours in advance** of your scheduled preliminary round to Alden@McLeanCenter.org.
    - If you cannot submit this information in advance, you must bring four (4) copies of your scripts with the information listed above to the preliminary round. Your name should be written on each copy. Copies will not be returned.

Dance

Preliminary Round: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, 7-9 p.m.

- Selections must be solo pieces.
- It is recommended that participants dress in appropriate dance wear. The stage flooring is sprung pine, without Marley. Because of this, it is strongly recommended that dancers wear shoes for all performances.
- Costume changes are not allowed in the preliminary round. Dancers who advance to the final round will have approximately 10-15 minutes to change between pieces.
- A sound technician is provided to play your music.
- **Need to submit:** Music as mp3 or wav file as well as a note with the title of the piece, music credit and choreographer. **This must be emailed by Wednesday, Jan. 29** to Alden@McLeanCenter.org.
- If possible, send your track as an edited file that includes only the portion you will be using. If not, include start and stop times in your email.
    - **Music on a CD, thumb drive, phone, laptop and YouTube/digital links are not accepted.**

Vocal Music

Preliminary Round: Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, 7-9 p.m.

- An accompanist is not required. If your performance requires one, participants must provide their own. A Steinway baby grand is provided, but your accompanist may play any instrument that they provide if required for your performance.
- If your piece requires an accompanist but are unable to provide one you may use pre-recorded music. A sound technician is provided to play your music.
- **Need to submit:** a copy of your music that lists the title of the piece, composer, your name and your accompanist's name. **This must be emailed 24 hours in advance** of your scheduled preliminary round to Alden@McLeanCenter.org.
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    - If you cannot submit this information in advance, you must bring four (4) copies of your music with the information listed above to the preliminary round. Copies will not be returned.
- **Additionally, IF you are using a pre-recorded track instead of an accompanist,** Music as mp3 or wav file **must be emailed by Wednesday, Jan. 29** to Alden@McLeanCenter.org.
    - If possible, send your track as an edited file that includes only the portion you will be using. If not, include start and stop times in your email.
    - **Music on a CD, thumb drive, phone, laptop and YouTube/digital links are not accepted.**

Instrumental Music

Preliminary Round: Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, 7-9 p.m.

- An accompanist is not required. If your performance requires one, participants must provide their own. A Steinway baby grand is provided, but your accompanist may play any instrument that they provide if that is required for your performance. Assistance for moving large instruments may be provided, but must be coordinated by Monday, Feb. 3 by emailing Alden@McLeanCenter.org.
- If your piece requires accompaniment but you do not have an accompanist, you may use pre-recorded music. A sound technician is provided to play your music.
- **Need to submit:** a copy of your music that lists the title of the piece, composer, your name and your accompanist's name. **This must be emailed 24 hours in advance** of your scheduled preliminary round to Alden@McLeanCenter.org.
    - If you cannot submit this information in advance, you must bring four (4) copies of your music with the information listed above to the preliminary round. Copies will not be returned.
- **Additionally, IF you are using a pre-recorded track instead of an accompanist,** Music as mp3 or wav file **must be emailed by Wednesday, Jan. 29** to Alden@McLeanCenter.org.
    - If possible, send your track as an edited file that includes only the portion you will be using. If not, include start and stop times in your email.
    - **Music on a CD, thumb drive, phone, laptop and YouTube/digital links are not accepted.**

AFTER PRELIMINARY ROUND

Participants are notified by email if they are moving on to the final round within two days. The email will include judges' notes. You will also receive guidelines for a brief biography to be included in the program and a blank W-9 form. Biographies are due by March 24 for inclusion in the printed program. W9s should not be emailed, but instead brought with you to the finals or dropped off in advance.

Finalists participate in technical rehearsals. These 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.

Dance and Theatre finalists have a technical rehearsal on Tuesday, April 29 between 5-9 p.m. Scheduling information will be sent to Finalists. Each participant will be assigned 30 minutes on stage to set their spacing as well as entrance/exits. Dance participants should bring the appropriate shoes for each piece, but not costumes.

Vocal and Instrumental finalists will have a technical rehearsal at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30 before the competition. Each participant will have up to 10 minutes on stage to set their entrance/exits and rehearse portions of their pieces.

FINAL ROUND

- Finalists must perform at the final competition to be eligible for any award money. No exceptions.
- **Participants must perform the same pieces in both the preliminary and final rounds.**
- Participants should submit their completed W-9 when they check in.

Day of the Finals: Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 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 portions of their pieces.

7:15 p.m. - **Dance and Theatre finalists arrive.**

All participants will rehearse the awards section of the performance.

LINKS

Competition website: Macdonald Performing Arts Scholarship – McLean Center

Apply: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MACDONALD2025

Fee Payment: https://ci.ovationtix.com/31195/store/products/92029

Questions: Alden@McLeanCenter.org

Room Request: https://mcleancenter.org/rentals/