

## WALLIS OPERA COMPETITION



The Wallis Memorial Opera Competition and its \$5,000 first prize is one of a kind in Canada. It was established by the late Gordon C. Wallis, former Assistant Director of the University of Regina Conservatory of Music and Dance, to encourage and assist young Saskatchewan singers in furthering their vocal studies in opera. Wallis, a passionate devotee of opera, and patron of the arts, provided trust funds for this biennial competition to be administered by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, in cooperation with the Regina and the

Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

The competition, held in even-numbered years, alternates between Regina and Saskatoon. In addition to the prize money, the winner may be featured as guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

Professor Wallis was a consummate musician, musical director, performer, and acknowledged authority on opera. He was a valued member of the SMFA Syllabus Music Selection Committee and he adjudicated our festivals across the province and throughout Western Canada. His extensive collection of opera material – complete operatic scores, recordings, libretti, books, documents, periodicals, and programs from every major opera house in the world – are housed in the Gordon C. Wallis Opera Resource Room in Darke Hall in Regina. These resources are open for use to all who have an interest in music and in particular, opera.

The next Opera Competition will be held in Regina in November 2010.



### OPERA COMPETITION WINNERS

- 2000 – Michael Harris, Saskatoon
- 2002 – Laurien Gibson, Saskatoon
- 2004 – Allison Arends, Regina
- 2006 – Sarah Vardy, Warman
- 2008 – Jordie Hughton, Saskatoon

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## COMPETITION REGULATIONS

The competition is open to non-professional\* vocalists between the ages of 20 and 35, as of December 31 preceding the year of the competition.

*\*A non-professional musician shall be defined as a person whose principal means of livelihood is not obtained from the performance of music in the particular category in which he or she is competing.*

Only those of talent and industry, who have the necessary vocal and dramatic potential for a possible career in the operatic world, should consider entering the competition, otherwise no scholarship will be awarded.

The judges may award a First Place Prize of \$5,000. The monies will be payable to a recognized opera program or university/college opera program for further study by the competition winner. ***The prize money must be claimed within two years of the competition date or the funds are forfeited.***

Competitors must:

- ♪ live or study in the Province of Saskatchewan **OR** if studying outside of the province, have competed in a Saskatchewan Music Festival within the preceding five years
- ♪ perform the following to a maximum of 20 minutes:
  - one art song in any style
  - two contrasting arias from the standard operatic repertoire, in two different languages, and from two different periods.
- ♪ provide their own accompanist and page turner, and are responsible for their own expenses
- ♪ provide two original scores of music, for the judges (extra copies are encouraged for the judges' convenience); the accompanist must perform from another original score; photocopied copyright music will not be accepted; failure to comply will result in disqualification
- ♪ number the first bar of each line in their scores
- ♪ submit entry forms to the SMFA Provincial Office by the entry close date of **October 15 (Late entries will not be accepted)**; A non-refundable entry fee of **\$50.00 must be received within a week of the entry deadline**; a **biographical paragraph and photo must accompany the entry form**

The winner is announced following the competition. The judges' decision is final.

***Notwithstanding any other provision in these Regulations, the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Inc.'s Board of Directors shall be the final and binding decision-making authority on all matters pertaining to competitions administered by the SMFA.***