

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.

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.

*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.

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.** SMFA encourages winner of this scholarship to claim award money within two years of competition date.

Competitors must:

- ♪ be a Saskatchewan resident (if studying in another province, a valid Saskatchewan Health card number is required) OR be a resident student studying with a resident Saskatchewan teacher
- ♪ 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 2 **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 (entry forms are available at www.smfa.ca in the year of the competition. **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 will be announced following the competition. **The judges' decision is final.**