

47th ANNUAL WILLIAM C. BYRD YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

WILLIAM C. BYRD, music director of the Flint Institute of Music and conductor of the Flint Symphony Orchestra, was an exceptionally talented young man with vision and extraordinary leadership skills. Conducting and composing were his primary interests, but he had a unique devotion to the artistic growth and development of young musicians. He worked with boundless enthusiasm and accomplished many of his ambitious goals before his sudden death in 1974. The St. Cecilia Society in cooperation with the Flint Institute of Music takes great pride in presenting this competition in his memory.



The competition consists of four categories, rotating annually:
Voice - 2018; Piano - 2019; Strings - 2020; Winds & Brass - 2021

The Voice competition will be held
Saturday, March 3, 2018 at: Flint Institute of Music
1025 East Kearsley Street, Flint, MI 48503

Chairman: Mrs. Carol S. Hinterman
810.793.0538 ■ cell 810.964.9399
chairman@byrdartists.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide an annual competition with performance opportunities designed to help launch musical careers.

Eligibility

- A. The Competition is international in scope and accepts 30 musicians. Instrumentalists cannot be older than 30, and vocalists cannot be older than 34 on the day of the Competition. Contestants cannot have a manager or agent.
- B. Each contestant must submit a completed application form with the following required enclosures by Thursday, January 4, 2018:
 1. Completed application and housing form.
 2. Two letters of recommendation which may be sent separately.
 3. A résumé and a brief biography (90 to 110 words), highlighting history of study, honors, solo performances, reviews and programs.
 4. One color photo of yourself suitable for publication, not smaller than 3" by 5."
 5. A recording on a CD with a **minimum** of 10 minutes of your performance time of the music you plan to perform in the competition (no mp3 recordings, please). Put the titles and name of composer on your CD, but do NOT add any information to your CD that would identify you by name or photo. **Your music selections must be written for your vocal range and full orchestra. A varied program is recommended.** Your CD can have piano or orchestra accompaniment, but only piano accompaniment will be used during the competition. Your recording will be used by a preliminary judge who will limit the field to 30 contestants, and your CD will not be returned to you.
 6. A check or money order payable to the St. Cecilia Society for the registration fee of \$75 and an additional fee of \$200 (\$275 total) if you wish to use the St. Cecilia Society accompanist. (Applicants not accepted into the competition will have their \$200 and music score returned.) The \$200 entitles the contestant to an hour practice session with the accompanist the day before the competition. Send a clean, store purchased copy of your music with the application if you plan to use the St. Cecilia Society accompanist. Securing an accompanist cannot be guaranteed after February 4, 2018.
- C. Applications **MUST BE RECEIVED** no later than Thursday, January 4, 2018 by The W. C. Byrd Competition, c/o the Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503.
- D. Contestants will be notified of the results of the preliminary round by the first week of February.

Judges

A preliminary judge limits the field of contestants to 30 after listening to the CD performances. A jury of three distinguished musicians will serve as judges at the auditions and final competition. The decision of the judges is final. If a contestant has studied with or had close professional or personal ties with a judge, the judge will be requested to recuse himself for that contestant, and the scores from the other two judges will be averaged to provide a third score.

Auditions

- A. Auditions will be held throughout the day **Saturday, March 3, 2018** beginning at 8:00 a.m. Contestants shall be known to the judges only by number. Bring a store purchased score for the judges to use during the audition. Auditions are open to the public.
- B. Time slots and contestant numbers will be assigned soon after the acceptance letters are mailed. Contestants perform for a full 10 minutes at the audition.
- C. Contestants must memorize and be prepared to perform all of their selected songs.
- D. Five Finalists will be selected at the close of the auditions. The finals will be held the same day beginning at 7:00 p.m. and open to the public at no cost. Finalists will be introduced by name at the conclusion to the judges and the audience.
- E. The finals are presented as a formal program. Contestants selected into the finals are required to wear appropriate attire for the evening presentation and be prepared to perform their entire music selection.

Prizes*

- A. The First Place Winner will receive \$6,000 and must sign a contract to appear with the Flint Symphony Orchestra, a professional per-service orchestra. \$3,000 will be presented by the St. Cecilia Society immediately after the competition. The remaining \$3,000 will be awarded after the performance with the Flint Symphony Orchestra. Failure to fulfill this engagement will result in forfeiture of the \$3,000. A First Place Winner is not eligible to return for future competitions.
- B. A Second Prize of \$2,500 will be awarded. Should the First Place Winner be unable to perform with the orchestra, the Second Place Winner will be expected to fulfill this engagement, and will be paid \$3,000 for this performance.
- C. The other three finalists will each receive \$1,000.

* Please note: All prizewinners must complete appropriate IRS (Internal Revenue Service) forms to receive disbursement of prize monies. For details, see www.ByrdArtists.com.

General Information

- A. Lunch (11 a.m.–2 p.m.) and dinner (5:30 p.m.) will be served free of charge to all contestants and accompanists. Finalists will be announced at the dinner.
- B. Housing by volunteers in the community will be available. Requests for housing should be made with the attached application.
- C. For those who wish to book a hotel room, reservations may be made with the Holiday Inn Express of Flint (810.238.7744) located two blocks from the Dort Music Center. Hotel transportation is complementary.
- D. The registrar's desk will be open from 9:00am to 8:30pm on Friday, March 2, 2018 and at 7:00am on March 3, 2018. Practice rooms will be assigned at the registrar's desk.
- E. In the event that competition staff cannot be contacted, the Flint Institute of Music security office will receive urgent messages at 810.238.1350 ext 7.

