



Opera Columbus Irma M. Cooper Vocal Competition

**Weigel Hall
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio**

March 24-25, 2012

*The competition that helped to launch the careers of world-renowned mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves** and Metropolitan Opera artists **Dina Kuznetsova, Richard Paul Fink, Lucas Meachem, Nicole Heaston, Richard Zeller, Susan Foster, and Alyson Cambridge.***

Judges panel drawn from across the opera industry.

2012 Opera Columbus Irma M. Cooper Vocal Competition

The purpose of the Opera Columbus Irma M. Cooper Vocal Competition is to discover, recognize, and encourage young operatic talent through cash prizes and audition experience.

Eligibility

The competition is open to professional and pre-professional singers who have completed, or are engaged in completing, a musical education suitable for the operatic stage. To be eligible, singers must be between the ages of 20 and 35 on the day of the finals (March 25, 2012), and cannot have sung a leading role with an OPERA America Budget Level I company or its international equivalent. (Comprimario, cover, and supporting roles are acceptable.)

Application Fee

The application fee is \$50. Personal checks and money orders (payable to "Opera Columbus") will be accepted. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH. Application fees are non-refundable.

Application Package

Each applicant must submit a complete package, including the following: Completed application form, \$50 application fee, a photocopy of his/her government-issued ID (must show date of birth) or birth certificate, a current performing resume, a photograph (8x10), and a CD with two arias (see "Artistic Requirements" below). Detailed information regarding supplemental materials is included on page two. *All application materials, recordings, and fees become the property of Opera Columbus, and will not be returned to applicants.*

Artistic Requirements

Applicants must submit a high-quality CD recording of two contrasting arias from opera and/or operetta. All selections must have accompaniment (piano or orchestra). Please be certain that your CD can be clearly heard. **Do not send DVDs.**

Applicants may include no more than one aria translated from the original language, and only if it is a piece that is commonly sung in translation. **If selected for the semi-finals, artists will need to prepare five contrasting arias, in at least two languages.**

A panel of opera and voice professionals will judge these recordings and select the singers who will compete in the live competition in March. Semi-finalists and finalists will have the opportunity to meet with the judges following each day of competition.

Awards

First Place.....	\$3,000
Second Place.....	\$2,500
Third Place.....	\$2,000
Fourth Place	\$1,000
Finalist	\$750
Merle McInturff Award for Musical Excellence	\$500

Schedule

The postmark deadline for applications is **JANUARY 17TH, 2012**. All application materials must arrive under the same cover. **INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please make a copy of your application form for your records.

Semi-finalists will be notified in **early February 2012**, via email. Those not advancing to the semi-finals will be notified via email.

Semi-finals will be on **March 24, 2012**, and the finals will be on **March 25, 2012**. Both the semi-finals and the finals will be held in Columbus, Ohio, at The Ohio State University School of Music. A panel of nationally-recognized opera professionals will judge those invited to compete in the semi-final and final rounds.

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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

All applications must include the following supplemental materials:

- **Copy of Government-Issued ID or Birth Certificate**

Include a photocopy of either a government-issued ID, such as a driver's license or state ID card (must include date of birth), or your birth certificate. (Required for age verification.)

- **Photograph**

Include a professional 8x10 head shot.

- **Performing resume**

A performing resume should include complete roles you have prepared, with whom it was performed, awards and grants, musical training and degrees, current and former voice teachers, and any other relevant professional experience. **Maximum one page.**

- **CD**

Your recording should include two contrasting arias from opera and/or operetta. Applicants may include no more than one aria translated from the original language, and only if it is a piece that is commonly sung in translation. **All selections must include accompaniment.** DO NOT include additional selections or video recordings. Label the CD with your name, selections, and competition year (2012).

Questions?

Contact Sarah Rhorer, Director of Education & Community Programming: srhorer@operacolumbus.org.

Application Checklist:

- Completed application form
- \$50 application fee (payable to *Opera Columbus*)
- Copy of ID or birth certificate
- Performing resume
- Photograph (8x10)
- CD with two arias

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APPLICATION

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Country (if outside USA): _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date of birth: _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

List the works on your CD:

SELECTION 1:

Recit/Title: _____

Opera: _____

Composer: _____

Language: _____

SELECTION 2:

Recit/Title: _____

Opera: _____

Composer: _____

Language: _____

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I have not performed a leading role with an OPERA America Budget Level I company or its international equivalent, and will be between the ages of 20 and 35 on March 25, 2012.*

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail completed application package (postmarked no later than December 16, 2011) to:

Opera Columbus Irma M. Cooper Vocal Competition
55 E. State Street
Columbus, OH 43215

* Comprimario, cover, and supporting roles are acceptable.