



TCO NEXT

A VIRTUAL VOCAL COMPETITION

OCTOBER 18, 2020

JUDGES PANEL

Crystal Manich

Stage and screen director, artist mentor

Morris Robinson

Acclaimed operatic bass

Kamala Sankaram

Composer and instrumentalist

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TCO NEXT: A VIRTUAL VOCAL COMPETITION

TCO Next seeks to encourage emerging professional singers by promoting new voices and new music.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to all opera singers eligible to work in the United States.
- There is no age limit.
- Applicants may not have sung more than one non-Young Artist Program role with an OPERA America Budget Level 1 company.

Fees

- Application fee: \$50
- A small number of need-based scholarships are available. Please contact John Cockerill at competition@tricityopera.org for more information.
**Please note that all application fees are non-refundable.*

To Apply

- Deadline: Received by Saturday, August 15, 2020.
- Complete the online YAP Tracker application form at <https://www.yaptracker.com/applications/tri-cities-opera-next-2020>.
- Attach three (3) audio recordings (no video accepted).
 - Repertoire:
 - Selections should demonstrate stylistic variety and must be in three different languages, one of which must be English.
 - One selection must be either:
 - a musical theatre/cabaret piece, or
 - a piece written since 2000.
 - While pieces from the opera/musical theatre canon are preferred, applicants may choose to submit an art song. No more than one art song should be submitted.
 - Selections should be sung in their original keys and languages. (Standard transpositions or translations are also permitted.)
 - Recordings should be of a clear quality and include only the pieces being submitted. Each piece should be submitted as a separate upload, and include piano accompaniment.
 - No repertoire changes are allowed after submission materials are sent.
- Pay application fee.
**Please note that all applications must be submitted online through YAP Tracker. Mailed applications will not be considered.*

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First Round

- The first round will be audio-only: the judges will receive only the audio selections provided by the applicants and will not receive the applicants' names or personal information.
- Audio recordings will not be shared outside of the competition.
- The judges for the first and semi-final rounds will be:
 - Jenni Bank – Mezzo-soprano & Artistic Advisor
 - Tesia Kwarteng – Mezzo-soprano & former Tri-Cities Opera Resident Artist
 - John Rozzoni – General Director, Tri-Cities Opera

Semi-Finals

- Semi-finalists will be announced on social media and in a press release.
- Each semi-finalist will be asked to submit:
 - 3 video recordings adhering to the repertoire requirements for the prescreening round listed above (which may be the same pieces as the audio recordings submitted with the application),
 - Repertoire list of submitted pieces,
 - Headshot,
 - A 250-300 word bio (which may include website, social media handles, and other relevant promotional details),
 - Tax documents, and
 - A short Q&A video for promotion and publicity.
- Semi-finalists must agree that TCO may use their videos for promotion of the competition.

Finals

- Finalists will be announced on social media and in a press release, and will be featured on TCO's social media pages leading up to the final round.
- The final round, held October 18, 2020, will be a streamed concert of select videos submitted for the semi-final round. Finalists will not need to submit new materials, but are encouraged to attend the online concert so they can engage on social media and support their colleagues.
- The judges for the final round will be:
 - Crystal Manich – Stage and screen director, artist mentor
 - Morris Robinson – Acclaimed operatic bass
 - Kamala Sankaram – Composer and instrumentalist
- The winners will be announced at the end of the concert.

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Prizes

- Grand Prize: **\$3,000** *plus a role with Tri-Cities Opera*
- 2nd Prize: **\$2,000**
- 3rd Prize: **\$1,000**
- Audience Choice/Social Media Award: \$250 (see below)
- Encouragement Prizes of \$100 will go to the remaining finalists.
 - Encouragement prize winners will not need to pay an application fee if they choose to apply the following year.
 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners are not eligible to compete again.

Social Media/Audience Choice Award

- All semi-finalists will be eligible to compete for the Social Media Award, which carries a \$250 prize.
- Semi-finalists will be asked to select a 30-second clip from one of their videos that they feel best captures them as a performer and artist.
- The videos will be available on TCO's social media for the semi-finalists to share and promote.
- The singer whose video receives the most cumulative "likes" or other reactions will be the winner.
- Please follow/like TCO on social media, and use #TCONEXT for competition-related posts.

Contact Us

Email: John Cockerill at competition@tricitessopera.org.

**No phone calls please.*

Tri-Cities Opera reserves the right to modify the rules and regulations of the competition as necessary.