



The Harold Haugh Light Opera

VOCAL COMPETITION

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2008
PINCKNEY HIGH AUDITORIUM
PINCKNEY, MICHIGAN**

A Competition In Which Operatically Trained Singers Prove They Can Entertain

APPLICATION BOOKLET AND ENTRY FORM

The Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition was formed to honor one of the finest Oratorio Tenors and stage performers of the last century, Harold Alberto Haugh. Upon retirement in 1960, he became active in local theater and starred in six productions for the Comic Opera Guild. Educator (for 34 years) and performer, Prof. Haugh died in 2000, aged 94.

RULES

The Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition has no top age limit. It is open to all singers who are not professionally represented (under management). The competition is also intended to promote the variety of fine music produced by the composers of Light Opera. Singers can choose music from Pergolesi to Franz Lehar, Mozart to Romberg, from *Elixir of Love* to *Show Boat* (see "LIGHT OPERA REPERTORY" on page 5).

APPLICATIONS

Please use the application form included with this booklet, and submit it with the following materials:

- **A GOOD QUALITY AUDIO CASSETTE or CD** demonstrating the applicant's vocal skill. Applicant must include **two** selections on the tape. The selections should be:
 1. A song or solo from the **light opera** repertoire
 2. An aria from **opera or oratorio**Selections must be well-recorded and clear. A poor recording will be rejected.
- **A recent photograph** (8 x 10 preferred, 4 x 6 acceptable)
- **A check for \$30** made out to the Comic Opera Guild, as an audition/application fee and guarantee of appearance.

Send all this information in a single envelope to:

Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition
c/o The Comic Opera Guild
3211 Packard Ann Arbor, MI 48108

All submissions must be received (postmarked) by: **January 25, 2008**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Contestants' recordings will be adjudicated, and **contestants will be notified by mail, or e-mail if they desire, if they have been accepted for the semi-final rounds by February 15, 2008**. Audition times are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

PURPOSE

The Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition is sponsored by the Comic Opera Guild, a semi-professional lyric theater company that has performed in the Ann Arbor area (and toured Michigan/Ohio) for over thirty years. The Guild is dedicated to promoting and continuing the tradition of classic musical theater, which is both vocally challenging and appropriate for aspiring vocal professionals.

WHAT WINS THIS COMPETITION?

Because many talented singers have shot themselves in the foot before they ever sang for the judges, we felt it was important to make some recommendations so that you have the best chance possible of winning a prize.

- **SEND A GOOD QUALITY RECORDING.** We expect to have more applicants than we have places for. If we can't tell the quality of your voice, you may not make it to the semifinals. Make sure the miking is not distant, and that there is no distortion or background noise.
- **CHOOSE THREE SONGS CAREFULLY.** You **MUST** have three songs prepared. You will sing a technical and a light opera selection in both the semis and the finals. Your technical selection(s) should show your ability vocally, including range, flexibility, tone, diction, intonation, phrasing, and pronunciation (in the case of foreign language). Your light opera selection(s) must show acting, creativity, use of the stage, and personality.
- **CHOOSE THE RIGHT SONGS.** Will your technical selection will impress the screening committee and the judges? It needs to show that you have the chops to compete with the level of talent that enters this competition. As for the light opera selection, many singers seem to have trouble choosing an appropriate number because they don't know the repertoire. Don't let this hamper you. If you don't know what light opera is, ask someone—your vocal coach preferably, or email us. We feel every singer needs to have a show-stopping light opera selection in his or her repertoire. If you don't, now's the time to add one. It will be useful in concerts and auditions to come.
- **SELL YOUR LIGHT OPERA SONG.** Light opera is all about entertainment. Good singing alone is not enough. Whether the subject is comedy, romance or anything else, put some time into staging it for yourself. Practice singing your song silently in front of a mirror. Would you “get” the idea of your song from this? If not, keep working.
- **DRESS APPROPRIATELY.** You are performing onstage. Make sure you look good to the judges. They can be critical of appearance.
- **PREPARE YOUR ACCOMPANIST.** If you're requesting our accompanist, you must send us the sheet music for your songs. If your pianist has to sight-read at the competition, you're taking an unnecessary chance.
- **SAVE YOUR BEST FOR LAST.** Make sure you have chosen a knockout selection for the finals. This year, you may re-sing one of your semi-final selections in the finals, either technical or light opera.
- **RE-READ THE RULES.** You'd be surprised how many intelligent singers did something stupid because they didn't read carefully.

SEMI-FINALS

Singers chosen for the semi-final round will be invited by mail or e-mail to compete in Howell. Singers must prepare THREE SONGS, two of which will be sung in the semi-finals. Directions to the SEMI-FINALS, held at the PINCKNEY HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, will be sent with semi-finalist notification. **The semi-finals will be scheduled from 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday, March 1, 2008.**

If you ask for a specific singing time, we will make every effort to honor your request. Preference will be given to those traveling greater distances to the competition. Singing times, once assigned, cannot be changed

REQUIRED FOR SEMI-FINALS:

ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION (60%)

- **ONE ARIA FROM THE LIGHT OPERA REPERTORY, FROM MEMORY.**

The light opera repertory requires acting ability in equal proportion to vocal skill. This makes it potentially more difficult than opera. You will be judged on your ability to “sell” this song. English translations will be allowed. The vocal difficulty of this selection is not the primary consideration. You will be judged on the appropriateness of your movement, attire, expression and use of the stage. You may use small props.

TECHNICAL SKILL (40%)

- **ONE ARIA FROM OPERA OR ORATORIO, FROM MEMORY.**

English translations also allowed. This selection should show the highest level of technical skill you have attained. It need not be musically complex, but should show skills such as accurate intonation, range, power and agility, as well as the pure beauty of your voice.

Please note:

- *Your selections in the **semi-final round** may be the same as the selections on your **application recording**, which must include one from the **LIGHT OPERA** repertory. Thus year, you may re-sing one of your semi-final selections in the finals, should you reach them. One final selection, however, must also be from the **LIGHT OPERA REPERTORY**. (see page 5)*

FINALS

Finalists, announced after semi-final round, will be presented in public concert for final adjudication on Saturday evening, March 1 at 8:00 pm, at the Pinckney High School.

Finalists will be posted at the end of the semi-final round, and singers are expected to determine if they are finalists. Instructions on rehearsal time and call time for concert will be given. Order of performance will be chosen at random.

Finalists who use an accompanist provided by COG may be able to arrange time to rehearse for the public concert, if a piano room is available between the semi-finals and the finals, and the accompanist is available. Other finalists may also request piano time, but priority will be given to those with provided accompanists. No rehearsal is guaranteed.

REQUIRED FOR FINALS:

- **TWO SONGS OR ARIAS, ONE FROM THE LIGHT OPERA REPERTORY, AND ONE OF YOUR CHOICE, FROM MEMORY**

These selection will be performed in front of an audience as well as the judges. You will be judged on the combination of ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION and TECHNICAL SKILL (see above). You will be judged on the appropriateness of this selection for a light opera competition. You should expect to entertain. You will also receive credit for attire and the way in which you engage the audience's attention.

There will be two sets, with each finalist singing one of their numbers in the first set, followed by the second set.

NOTE: You may re-sing one selection (either TECHNICAL or LIGHT OPERA) from the semi-final round, but the other must be new.

All finalists are asked to authorize the recording of the final concert, including their performance, as well as the use of their photograph solely for the promotional use of the HHLOVC.

It is important to understand that technical skill alone will not win this competition. You will be in a theatrical setting and your goal is to act and sing in a way that makes your performance memorable.

2008 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded (by check) from the Harold Haugh competition fund. The first place winner will receive \$2000; Second place will be awarded \$1000; Third place will be awarded \$500. There will also be the awarding of the Roger Wertenberger Prize (an audience choice award) and a Young Singer Award, given to a promising singer below the age of 21. Please note that the last two awards are independent of the main cash awards. All entrants will be mailed comments, including those not chosen for the semi-finals. Finalists and semi-finalists will be critiqued by an adjudication panel. Singers will be judged on both vocal technique and artistic presentation.

ACCOMPANISTS

Contestants are responsible for securing their accompanists. If you do not have one available, one will be provided for a fee of \$30. If you require an accompanist, please check the appropriate box on your application, include the fee in your application total, and provide information about the arias you will perform (including composer and show) and any special instructions on your interpretation. **You must also send a copy of your music with your application for the Guild accompanist to review.**

In the event a contestant doesn't make the semi-final rounds, the accompanist fee will be returned with notification of same.

A small amount of semi-private warm-up space will be available to singers and their accompanists prior to auditions. Every effort will be made to give the maximum amount of time to each contestant. We cannot provide space or accompaniment for rehearsal of your selections. It is your responsibility to have completed rehearsal prior to competition day. Guild accompanists are skilled professionals who will give you accurate accompaniment if you provide them with the music of your selections prior to the competition.

LIGHT OPERA REPERTOIRE

Light Opera as a genre stretches over at least three centuries. The subject matter is typically humorous, romantic or a combination of both, and usually non-tragic. Not only is this repertoire more suited to lighter or younger voices, but, in the acting skills it demands, it is preparation for attaining the highest dramatic level of opera. It is set apart from musical comedy only in the need for classical training in the singer. For purposes of the competition, selections from musical comedy may not be as effective if they do not require operatic vocal skills. **The Comic Opera Guild is a resource for sheet music in this genre.** You may inquire about selections for your voice type by contacting the Guild at (734) 973-3264 or at constu@comcast.net.

Sample composers of the genre are given below. Keep in mind that **not all compositions by these composers fall into the light opera repertory**

GERMAN/VIENNESE

Johann Strauss
Oscar Strauss
Lehar
Von Suppe
Mozart
Kalman
Flotow

FRENCH

Offenbach
Adam
Thomas
Boieldieu
Lecocq
Planquette
Auber

ENGLISH

Gilbert and Sullivan
Balfe
Edward German

CZECH

Dvorak
Smetana

AMERICAN

Herbert
Romberg
Friml
Bernstein
Kern

ITALIAN

Rossini
Donizetti
Pergolesi

SPANISH

Breton
Serrano
Chapi

WINNERS

The winners of awards in the Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition will be announced after the intermission of the public concert. Cash awards will be made at this time. All winners are requested to credit their final award in the "Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition" in their biographies and resumés following the competition. Press releases will be submitted to area newspapers, as well as to news media in the award winners' cities. Award winners will be asked to provide information on their local media to which a release may be sent.

Please note: The judges reserve the right to withhold any and all prizes, to award honorable mentions and to decide on the size and distribution of prizes. Their decisions are final.

JUDGING PANEL

Shirley Verrett. Ms. Verrett, the James Earl Jones Distinguished University Professor of Music at the University of Michigan, has been a star at the world's great opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera.

Richard Fracker is Chair of the Vocal Arts at Michigan State University. He has performed ten seasons at the Metropolitan Opera and has sung leading roles throughout the world.

George Shirley, The Joseph Edgar Maddy Distinguished University Professor of Music (Voice) and Director, Vocal Arts Division, The University of Michigan School of Music. Mr. Shirley's career as a lead tenor is world-renowned.

Jeffrey Stamm, tenor, has performed throughout the US as well as at the Metropolitan Opera, where he replaced Luciano Pavarotti at the opening night performance of "Der Rosenkavalier". Mr Stamm sang in Europe and Asia and has performed for the Queen of England and at the White House.

Thomas Petiet, Managing Director of the Comic Opera Guild, has produced more than 50 operettas. His vocal repertory includes lead roles in over 30 operas and operettas, and he has also worked as stage director and translator.

COMPETITION STAFF

Brad Rondeau, Former President of the COG board, has also served as stage director and performer.

Margaret Counihan, professional accompanist, has also served on the Board, as well as performing onstage.

Thomas Petiet (see bio above)

COMIC OPERA GUILD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adam Aceto, President
Margaret Counihan
John Guidinger
Patrick Johnson
Patricia Petiet, Secretary
Brad Rondeau
Robert Shannon
Robert Seeman, Vice President
George Valenta, Treasurer
Thomas Petiet, Managing Director

2000 COMPETITION WINNERS

Gary Moss, Baritone
"Oh, Better Far" *Pirates of Penzance* (Sullivan)
Marcia Porter, soprano
"Meine Lippen..." *Giuditta* (Strauss)

2001 COMPETITION WINNERS

Michael Ryan, Tenor
"Fritz's Rondo" *La Grande Duchesse* (Offenbach)
Pei-Yi Wang, mezzo-soprano
"Una Voce Poco Fa" *Barber of Seville* (Rossini)

2003 COMPETITION WINNERS

Michael Gallant, Tenor
"Kleinzach" *Tales of Hoffman* (Offenbach)
Jessica Medoff, soprano
"Czardas" *Die Fledermaus* (Johann Strauss)

2005 COMPETITION WINNERS

William Bennett, Baritone
"Largo al Factotum" *Barber of Seville* (Rossini)
Kimberly Dolanski, soprano
"Glitter and be Gay" *Candide* (Bernstein)

2006 COMPETITION WINNERS

Sara Asmar, soprano
"Olympia's Song" *Tales of Hoffman* (Offenbach)
Nathan Brian, baritone
"Come Un Ape" *La Cenerentola* (Rossini)

APPLICATION FORM

Please complete both sides, detach and mail

Name _____

Current address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Email _____ Fax No. (if any) _____

Voice Classification _____ Age (as of 3/1/08) _____

I wish to receive Semi-finalist status results by E-mail

I will bring my own accompanist

I require an accompanist. Include \$30.00 accompanist fee

I have included information and/or music for my selections

Application Fee \$30.00

Accompanist Fee \$30.00

TOTAL FEE(S) ENCLOSED \$ _____

List the two selections you will be performing if selected for the semi-final round.
Please include title, show and composer.

List the additional selection you will perform if chosen for the finals. Please include title, show and composer.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		
Date Rcvd	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Tape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
Email	y_____	n_____
Sent	y_____	n_____
Aud. Time	_____	
Confirmed	y_____	n_____

BIOGRAPHY:

70 Words or less. Please type or write in the space below or on a separate sheet. If no biography is included, only your name, voice type, and city will be displayed

**Please include this form with the other required materials
(sound recording, check, photo, etc.)
Send the above in one envelope to:**

**Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition
c/o The Comic Opera Guild
3211 Packard
Ann Arbor, MI 48108**

**POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, JAN. 25. 2008.
MATERIALS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.**