

- **At no time should the contestants or their parents/family/friends have any communication or interaction with the judges before or during the competition. Contact includes verbal conversations and handshakes.**
- If you'd like to receive a copy of the judges' scores for your performance, please turn in a #10, self-addressed stamped envelope when you check-in. If you were in both the preliminary and finals round, stick two stamps on the envelope please.

JUDGING

- Out-of-county individuals with a background in singing, music production, promotion, etc. will be assembled to judge on Friday and Saturday, May 31-June 1, 2019.
- Decision of the judges is final.
- Each contestant shall be judged by the following criteria on a scale of 1-10, with a total of 50 points being possible:
 - 1) Singing ability (vocal quality/rhythm/pitch/phrasing);
 - 2) Appearance (costume/attire);
 - 3) Stage Presence (movement/confidence/command);
 - 4) Knowledge of the Song (remember the words and melody);
 - 5) Judges' Overall Impression.
- Judges' scores will be tallied and provide the guide for who wins. In the event of a tie, the judges will deliberate and select the winner(s).
- **Contestants and their families are not allowed to have contact with any contest judge before or during the competition. Contact includes verbal conversations and handshakes. Contestants and their family/friends should NOT hang out in back of or around the judges' area.**
- Judges' scores will be tallied using the Microsoft Excel software by an experienced accountant.

PRIZES FOR WINNERS

- The first place winners in both age categories will receive \$500.
- The second place winners in both categories will receive \$250.
- The third place winners in both categories will receive \$100.
- Payments will be made via check.
- One contestant in the 18 & Older Category will win the RISING STAR AWARD which is a recording session at Oneonta's premiere studio, ANALOG ON THIRD. This award can be given to whomever the judges agree deserves it, not necessarily a place winner.

INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

- Be sure to invite your family, friends, and others to come hear you sing! A great audience of familiar faces motivates singers and can be great cheerleaders for their performance.
- **A limited number of chairs will be available. However, attendees are strongly encouraged to bring lawn chairs in which to sit and enjoy all the performances.**
- **Remember this event is part of the 18th Annual June Fling which everyone can check out. Last year's event had over 100 booths, classic cars, a fashion show, and a Kidz Fun Zone. Lots of good food to eat, too.**

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The OBA reserves the right to cancel or modify the event as necessary and without notice. Contestants will be notified of any changes or cancellations via email.
- All contestants must sign to release the Oneonta Business Association, their officers, members, volunteers, and sponsors from any liability resulting from their performance and attendance at this event. This is on the registration form you submit.
- All contestants must consent to allow the OBA unrestricted authorization to use their name, photo, voice recording, video recording, entry materials, or likeness in promotional materials without compensation.
- By submission of an application and entering into this contest, each contestant represents and warrants his or her compliance with these rules and regulations.

QUESTIONS? Call Patti at 205-446-0462 or email showdown@oneontabusinessassociation.com.



ONEONTA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S 18th ANNUAL JUNE FLING presents the 6th ANNUAL SINGING SHOWDOWN A Solo Vocal Competition RULES & REGULATIONS FOR 2019

TIMELINE

- **AUDITION ROUND:** Video & Registration Due by Monday, April 15, 2019. REGISTRATION FEE FOR 10-17 YEAR OLDS: \$10. REGISTRATION FEE FOR 18 & OLDER: \$25
- **LIVE AUDITIONS AVAILABLE BY RESERVATION AT SWAMPTAILS RESTAURANT:** Two Thursdays: February 7 & 28, 2019, 6-8 pm. The OBA will video your audition for you. Please bring your backup track or guitar. Call 205-446-0462 to reserve your live audition. Do NOT call SwampTails!
- **AUDITION VIDEOS** will be scored/ranked by three independent judges. Notices of those making it to the preliminary round will be notified by May 4.
- **PRELIMINARY ROUND 18 & OLDER CHECK-IN:** Friday, May 31, 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- **PRELIMINARY ROUND for 18 & OLDER CATEGORY:** Friday, May 31, 6-9 pm
- **PRELIMINARY ROUND 10-17 CATEGORY CHECK-IN:** Saturday, June 1, 12-1 pm
- **PRELIMINARY ROUND FOR 10-17 CATEGORY:** Saturday, June 1, 2 pm. Those promoted to the finals must check-in **immediately** after those contestants are announced.
- **FINALS ROUND CHECK-IN FOR 18 & OLDER CATEGORY:** Saturday, June 1, 3:30-4:30 pm
- **FINALS ROUND FOR BOTH CATEGORIES:** Saturday, June 1, 2019, 5 pm
- **SPECIAL PERFORMANCE - ACT TO BE ANNOUNCED, 7 pm**
- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS FOLLOWS**

WHO MAY ENTER

- Anyone may enter, male or female, in one of two categories: ages 10-17 or ages 18 & older. In the past, we have had contestants as young as 10 and as old as 70+. All ages are welcome and encouraged to enter.
- Contestants under the age of 19 must have a legal guardian's permission to participate and a legal guardian present during all aspects of the competition.
- All contestants must be amateur entertainers and be "unsigned," i.e., no signed contracts. Professional entertainers (union musicians or whose talent is a principle source of income) are not permitted to enter.
- Past contestants of the Singing Showdown are welcome to enter again. First place winners must sit out the next year's competition; however, they will be invited to perform as the immediate past winner. They may enter the following year's competition.

THE COMPETITION: The competition will take place in three rounds: auditions, preliminary, and finals (see above timeline).

AUDITION ROUND

- For the Audition Round, all contestants must complete and sign the registration form and provide a video audition of **ONE SONG** by Monday, April 15, 2019. There is a non-refundable fee to help offset the costs of the event: \$10 for the 10-17 category and \$25 for the 18 & Older Category.
- Videos may be made using a tablet, smart phone, camcorder, or other digital device. They do not have to be professional quality. Just be sure the sound is good so your vocals can be heard.
- Audition round videos must have background/accompaniment music, whether it be recorded music or accompaniment by a guitar or piano, etc. **No acappella singing (without music) is allowed.**

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- Accompaniment music FOR ALL ROUNDS (INCLUDING AUDITIONS) should be FREE of lead vocals. For example, we don't want you to "sing along with Adele or Whitney Houston." Judges need to clearly hear your lead vocals.
- Video auditions can be submitted by including a standard size DVD with your entry form, emailing a link to your video on YouTube to showdown@oneontabusinessassociation.com, or transmitting the video file via a free large file transfer service like www.dropbox.com or www.dropsend.com. Note that videos that are larger than 10 mb in size usually won't transfer successfully in regular email.
- You may also upload your audition video file via a link on the OBA website at www.oneontabusinessassociation.com.
- Audition Round contestants will be notified by May 4, 2019, as to whether or not they made it to the Preliminary Round.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- Preliminary Round Contestants must complete and sign a form mailed to them to confirm their continued participation and provide additional information about their performance at the Singing Showdown. This form must be returned no later than May 15, 2019, and can be emailed or faxed to 205-625-0164. **PLEASE DO NOT MAKE US HAVE TO BEG FOR THIS. We will contact you ONE TIME if you have not submitted the confirmation form and if it is not received by the desired date, you will be disqualified.**
- Preliminary Round contestants should also enclose a headshot photograph or email it to showdown@oneontabusinessassociation.com when they submit their Preliminary Round confirmation form. **Again, your failure to send in the photo may disqualify you so see to it that it is sent at the same time as your confirmation form!**
- Contestants should prepare ONE SONG for the Preliminary Round. Out-of-county judges will score and determine which contestants will be promoted to the Finals Round. The Finals Round contestants will be announced a few minutes after that round has been concluded.
- The time limit for contestants is five (5) minutes during the Preliminary Round.
- Please see the timeline for check-in schedules for both the Preliminary and Finals Rounds. The Showdown check-in booth will be located on the corner of 1st Ave East/3rd Street. For navi/GPS systems, use the address **239 1st Avenue East, Oneonta, AL**. Look for the Showdown Booth A-frame sign to direct you.
- Upon Preliminary Round check-in, contestants must provide their CD of accompaniment music or have previously indicated on their form that they will use acoustic guitar or keyboard accompaniment or music on a flash drive. **DO NOT BRING MUSIC ON AN IPAD OR PHONE.** Our sound crew does not wish to be responsible for high dollar equipment. So use a CD or flash (thumb) drive. **Remember not to put accompaniment music on a DVD because it's likely not to play.** CD is the way to go.
- Make sure all CDs are marked with the contestant's name, name of song, and whether it's for preliminary or final competition. Example: Jane Doe, My Love, Preliminary Song. If it's not marked when you arrive, you will be given a felt-tip pen to do that. **No unlabeled CDs will be accepted.** If you bring a flash drive, be sure to place it in envelope with identifying information on front and your initials on the flash drive.
- After both rounds, CDs and flash drives may be picked up by the contestant only at the Showdown booth within 30 minutes of the conclusion of that round. This is the only time that a contestant may claim them. Unclaimed items become the property of the OBA and will be disposed of by the event committee. They will not be mailed after the event.
- At check-in, Preliminary Round contestants will draw a number for order of performance.
- Please see the TimeLine for schedule of check-in for both Preliminary and Finals Rounds.

FINALS ROUND

- For the Finals Round, the contestants must prepare TWO SONGS but perform **no longer than EIGHT MINUTES**. That time includes your intro, comments, songs, and exit. **Put your two songs IN ORDER OF PERFORMANCE when you set up your CD or flash drive. This is a requirement!!! No a cappella singing (without accompaniment).**
- Contestants exceeding their performance time will be faded out. You might choose a ballad for your first number, then end on a more peppy tune. It's your decision and song selection is key.
- Finalists must be present to receive awards at the end of the competition, around 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 1.

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PERFORMANCE

- A contestant may only perform as a solo act.
- A karaoke machine and screen will not be supplied. Memorize the words to your song(s).
- During the performance, only the contestant can be onstage. No back-up singers or dancers are allowed.
- A sound system and microphone will be supplied.
- Contestants MAY NOT utilize live props, back-up singers, dancers, or animals. Non-human props such as costumes and other accessories are permitted.
- **Contestants must use accompaniment tracks, acoustic guitar, or keyboard accompaniment. The Neely School of Music & Arts will supply a full size keyboard that will be onstage and ready.**
- It is highly advisable that you rehearse in front of a mirror so you can see what you look like while you are singing. Smile and express yourself. The way you present yourself on the stage is considered as part of your performance score. Look at the judges. Look at the audience.
- When you sing, be sure to pronounce the words of the songs clearly so they can be understood. You might want to record your song and play it back to see how you sound and if you are clearly communicating the lyrics and staying on key.
- It is good if you communicate with the audience. After the emcee introduces you, you could say something like, "Thank you. I am glad to be here. I love to sing and will be performing (name of song) as sung by (artist)." Try not to be scared to talk. Rehearse this part of your performance when you practice your songs. It will mean a lot to your score.
- All clothing should be modest and not revealing.
- On May 31-June 1, a VIP Hospitality Tent will be provided adjacent to the stage and may be used by CONTESTANTS ONLY. You cannot bring your "entourage" into the VIP tent. Seating and standing room are limited and the VIP Tent is only for Showdown contestants, musicians, and OBA volunteers working the event. It is not a hangout place. You can get a drink and/or snack and wait there for about 10 minutes prior to your performance. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

MUSIC SELECTION

- Songs must be suitable for family entertainment. The judges and the OBA reserve the right to disqualify any performer whose performance, dress attire, or song does not meet family entertainment standards.
- All contestants are required to bring their accompaniment CD and **one additional copy just in case one malfunctions**. The CDs or flash drives should be labeled as described earlier.
- The backup tracks should be void of lead vocals. Only musical band instruments and light harmonies/backup vocals will be allowed. For example, you can't sing along with Adele singing "Hello." You have to have a karaoke-style track.
- **Make sure that your CDs play and do not have scratches or damage that might cause issues to interrupt your performance.** Remember, you are required to have a backup copy just in case. **CDs MUST BE PLACED INSIDE PROTECTIVE SLEEVES OR CASES TO PREVENT DAMAGE OR SCRATCHES.**
- Contestants who do not show up to perform at their confirmed scheduled performance time will be disqualified.
- Contestants must not leave the stage during their performance.
- Performances must be G-rated and suitable for family entertainment.
- Contestants may sing the same song as another contestant. They can also sing the same song for both preliminary and final rounds. It's up to you. Historically, however, our judges like something different for the Finals Round if you can manage to learn three songs...shows your versatility and ability for performance.
- Songs sung must not contain any vulgar or explicit lyrics. Contestants who use vulgar or explicit lyrics during their performance will be disqualified from the competition.
- Any contestant guilty of distracting any of the other contestants while they are performing shall be disqualified.
- Any contestant guilty of insulting or starting any confrontation with any of the audience, other contestants, or OBA volunteer will be disqualified.
- Any contestant who experiences the malfunction of equipment will have the opportunity to start over.
- As stated earlier, the order of performance will be determined by each contestant's drawing of a number for the Preliminary Round and the Finals Round.

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