

Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus

Young Artists Vocal Competition

The *Young Artists Vocal Competition* is part of the Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus' ongoing educational program for young people, seeking to stimulate interest in classical music among young singers. We also hope to pass down the tradition of singing Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*, to succeeding generations. Finally, we wish to encourage exceptionally gifted young singers and help them develop as the vocal leaders of the future.

We welcome your participation in this, our ninth annual YAVC, on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at First Presbyterian Church in Ocean Springs (921 Ocean Avenue). See the Repertoire List (on the website) of approved solos from which to choose. A panel of judges will critique the performances and determine vocal and scholarship winners. **Vocal winners** of the competition will be invited to perform their solos at the live streamed hybrid *Messiah* concert, **Saturday, December 5, 2020**. All **scholarship winners** will be announced at the concert.

This year due to the pandemic, we will have NO in-person rehearsals of the chorus. Instead, all YAVC scholarship winners will be expected to sing in the 2020 "virtual choir". Three choruses ("And the Glory", "Glory to God" and "Hallelujah") will be rehearsed and recorded in advance of the concerts by each of the chorus members, including participants in YAVC, singing their own parts. The individual recordings will be digitally mixed, so your voice and face will be part of the Messiah Chorus! See the Virtual Choir section of our website for more information and instructions.

Dress rehearsal for selected soloists is Sunday evening, November 29. Contact Dr. Paul McGahie (228-257-2249) for further clarification or information about this rehearsal, learning aids for parts in the choruses, etc. The Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus performances will be Dec. 4th and 5th. Winning soloists will perform their solos at the December 5th concert with the string orchestra and will be live streamed. The hybrid concerts will include soloists/orchestra live streamed, three choruses done as a "virtual choir", and other pieces will be from archived video of previous performances.

*ELIGIBILITY: The YAVC is open to young singers, ages 15 – 25 (as of September 1, 2020), who live along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in one of the southern six counties (including Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone or George County). *The participant can be a resident of the area, working in the area, a student in the area, or someone who grew up in the area but is in school elsewhere. Also, young vocalists who have previously performed with the GCMC may audition, regardless of their place of residence.

TO COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION, MAIL THE FOLLOWING :

1. A recent recommendation from your primary vocal teacher briefly detailing your current vocal development
2. A recommendation from an adult (non-family member) in the community (First-time participants only)
3. A single-page essay describing your musical training, experience, your future musical goals, and list the solo(s) for which you plan to audition
4. REGISTRATION FEE: Check payable to "*Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus*"
Early Registration deadline: **September 25, 2020**, with fee of **\$10**
Final Registration deadline: **October 13, 2020**, with fee of **\$20**
5. **BEFORE OCTOBER 13: Contact Donna Snell at donnasnell@bellsouth.net or 228-896-4143 to let the chairman know you are entering the YAVC. (This is to avoid problems we have had in the past with not receiving registration materials in a timely manner, possibly due to problems with postal delivery.)**
6. **THEN, ON or BEFORE OCTOBER 13, 2020: mail all to Donna Snell - 1208 Pine Street - Gulfport, MS 39507**

Additional information is available at: www.messiahchorus.org

YAVC Registration Form

(Early Registration - \$10 fee - Final Registration - \$20 fee)

Student Full Name _____ Student Email _____

Student Cell Phone _____ Student Home Phone _____

Student Mailing Address

City _____ Zip _____

Student Date of Birth _____ Age (as of 09/01) _____ Male ___ Female ___

Education: ___ High School Student ___ College Undergraduate ___ Graduate Student ___ Other

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Parent(s) Mailing Address _____

Parent(s) Cell/Work Phone _____

Voice Category: ___ Soprano ___ Mezzo-Soprano ___ Alto ___ Tenor ___ Baritone ___ Bass

Teacher Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Email _____

BEFORE OCTOBER 13, contact Donna Snell, YAVC Chair, at 228-896-4143 or donnasnell@bellsouth.net of your intention to register.

Registration is not complete until this registration form, recommendation letter(s), student's essay, and registration fee are received.

**MAIL to:
Donna Snell - 1208 Pine Street - Gulfport, MS 39507.**