



# 2020 Coordinator Packet

The Overture Awards  
c/o Cincinnati Arts Association  
650 Walnut Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
(513) 977-4119  
[overtures@cincinnatiarts.org](mailto:overtures@cincinnatiarts.org)



## THE OVERTURE AWARDS

The Overture Awards is a program that recognizes, encourages and rewards excellence in the arts among Tri-state students in grades 9-12. Its mission is to encourage arts education as an integral part of a student's academic experience and to create an environment that encourages training in, and appreciation of, the arts. The Overture Awards Competition is the area's largest solo arts competition and offers awards in six artistic disciplines: creative writing, dance, instrumental music, theater, visual art, and vocal music. Students may win a \$4,000 scholarship (one awarded in each discipline) or a \$1000 finalist scholarship (a total of 18 awarded). Judges at all levels of the competition are drawn from the professional arts community.

The Overture Awards is administrated by the Cincinnati Arts Association (CAA), a not-for-profit organization that oversees the programming and management of two of the Tri-state's finest performing arts venues – the Aronoff Center for the Arts and Music Hall – and is dedicated to supporting performing and visual arts. Each year, CAA presents a diverse schedule of events; serves upwards of 700,000 people in its venues; features the work of talented local, regional and national artists in the Weston Art Gallery (located in the Aronoff Center); and supports the work of more than one dozen resident companies, including Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati May Festival, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Symphony/Pops Orchestras, and Fifth Third Bank Broadway in Cincinnati, presented by TriHealth. Since the inception of its educational programs in 1995, CAA has reached more than 1.7 million people.



## 2020 TIMELINE

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020**

**REGIONAL COMPETITION: SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020**

Creative Writing: Administered by CAA, no students report

Dance: Northern Kentucky University, Fine Arts Center

Instrumental Music: Mt. St. Joseph University's Theatre

Theater: Northern Kentucky University, Fine Arts Center

Visual Art: Mt. St. Joseph University, Dorothy Meyer Ziv Art Building/Studio San Giuseppe

- Drop off: Friday, January 24, 4:30-6:00 PM
- Pick up: Saturday, January 25, 4:00-5:00 PM

Vocal Music: Immanuel School of Music

**SEMI-FINAL COMPETITION: FEBRUARY 6, 7, & 8, 2020**

ARONOFF CENTER

Creative Writing: Administered by CAA, no students report

Dance: Thursday, February 6, 2020, 7:00-8:30 PM

- Jarson-Kaplan Theater (6th & Walnut Streets)
- Competitors arrival: 5:30 PM (warm-up on stage 5:30-6:30 PM)

Instrumental Music: Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Jarson-Kaplan Theater (6th & Walnut Streets)
- Competitors arrival: 9:00 AM

Theater: Friday, February 7, 2020, 7:00-9:30 PM

- Jarson-Kaplan Theater (6th & Walnut Streets)
- Competitors arrival: 6:00 PM

Visual Arts: Saturday, February 8, 2020

- Green Room, 4th Floor (enter through the Weston Art Gallery, 7th & Walnut Streets)
- Drop off: 8:30-9:30 AM
- Pick up: 3:00-4:00 PM

Vocal Music: Saturday, February 8, 2020, 2:30-5:00 PM

- Jarson-Kaplan Theater (6th & Walnut Streets)
- Competitors arrival: 1:30 PM

**FINAL COMPETITION & AWARDS CEREMONY: SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020, 1:00 PM**

Aronoff Center, Jarson-Kaplan Theater

Rehearsal: Friday, March 6, 2020, 1:00-5:00 PM

Visual Art display in Center Stage Room: Tuesday, March 3 – Saturday, March 7, 2020



## WHO MAY APPLY FOR THE COMPETITION

**All applications must be submitted through a school, home school, private music teacher or private studio. No individual applications will be accepted.**

### HIGH SCHOOLS:

- All students in grades 9-12 who study in the Greater Cincinnati region are eligible (see website for list of eligible counties)
- Schools are encouraged to hold in-school competitions to determine who will compete at the Regional level
- Schools may send up to 12 students to compete in the Regional Competition and may distribute nominations among the six disciplines as they wish

### HOME SCHOOLS, VIRTUAL SCHOOLS, PRIVATE STUDIOS/TEACHERS:

- A parent, teacher or staff member should act as the Overture Coordinator and be responsible for facilitating student registration
- The qualifications for students nominated by non-traditional schools are the same as for high schools (see above)
- Private studios/teachers should nominate students who have not been nominated by their high school
- Non-traditional schools may send competitors based upon the number of students enrolled in the school or studio:
  - » 1- 25 students: 4 competitors
  - » 25-50 students: 8 competitors
  - » 50 or more students: 12 competitors

### PRIOR FINALISTS:

- All prior Overture Awards finalists still in high school are automatically entitled to compete in future Overture Awards competitions. They must complete an application and pay the entry fee, however.
- Prior finalists will not be counted toward the total number of competitors for their school.

### DATE AND TIME OF COMPETITION

- The Overture Awards competition only occurs on the dates and times listed. Students cannot compete on another day or time.
- For the Regional Competition, competitors in dance, instrumental music, theater, and vocal music will be assigned a competition time, which will be posted online by December 20. ***Any time conflicts must be submitted in writing by the application deadline. The Overture Awards will do our best to accommodate the request. Once schedules are posted, competition times cannot be changed.***



## REGISTERING STUDENTS TO COMPETE

**DEADLINE:** All necessary information must be submitted online to the Cincinnati Arts Association by **Monday, November 11, 2019**.

### COORDINATORS

If you are a new coordinator or your information has changed, please complete a Coordinator Form online. A home school parent should serve as his or her student's coordinator.

### REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Students can only enter in one discipline
2. Download the application from the website and have students complete. **No handwritten application forms will be accepted.**
3. Students give applications to Coordinator
4. Coordinators submits applications through online submission manager, <https://cincinnatiartsassociation.submittable.com/submit>
5. On submission manager website find "Overture Awards 2020 Applications" and click the "Submit" button
6. You will be prompted to create an account or sign in if already have an account
7. Once signed in, complete online form
  - There is a field to list returning finalists
  - There is a field to list students requesting a fee waiver
  - There is a limit to the number of students a school or studio may enter. Please refer to the Who May Apply page for details.
8. Upload applications  
Note: you can upload applications as you receive them and select "Save" to upload more later
9. Once all applications have been uploaded, click "Submit"
10. Once you have clicked "Submit," applications are available for the Overture Awards to view
11. If, after you have submitted the applications, you need to make changes, you can select "edit" and a request will be sent to the Overture Awards to allow you to edit, or you can withdraw your submission and reapply
12. Creative Writing manuscripts are to be submitted separately but using the same system, <https://cincinnatiartsassociation.submittable.com/submit>, select "Overture Awards 2020 Creative Writing manuscripts"



## APPLICATION FEE

- There is a \$20 non-refundable entrance fee to compete, which must be received by Monday, November 11, 2019
- Schools, PTAs, or other organizations may pay entrance fees for their students
- Students with an economic hardship may have their entrance fee waived at the discretion of the coordinator (indicate request on Submission Form)

### Credit Cards:

- Online payment through Cincinnati Arts Association/Aronoff Center's ticketing system [www.cincinnatiarts.org/education-community/overture-awards/overture-application-fee](http://www.cincinnatiarts.org/education-community/overture-awards/overture-application-fee)
- Credit Cards are processed through Cincinnati Arts Association/Aronoff Center's ticketing system (1 ticket=1 application fee). However, it will be listed on your credit card statement as "Aronoff Center Tickets"
- If paying for more than one student, you may enter all names in the Student field, separate names by a comma. However, the Student field has limited space. If listing several students, either just list last names only or, if paying for all students from a school or studio, state "All Students" in name field.
- If you receive a message about selecting "Delivery Method," there is a drop down menu (bottom of ticket summary box, middle of screen), select "\$0.00-Overture Awards"
- If you have paid the Overture Awards Application Fee online in the past or ordered tickets through the Cincinnati Arts Association, you probably already have an account set up in the system. You can access it based on your email. When asked to login in, enter your email and password. If can't remember your password, click "forgot password" option.

### Checks and school purchase orders:

- Make checks payable to the "Cincinnati Arts Association." Include name of student(s), school/studio which nominated the student, and the discipline in which the student is competing, and mail to:

The Overture Awards  
c/o Cincinnati Arts Association  
650 Walnut Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

- If a school submits a purchase order, it must be paid by January 31, 2020
- Submit purchase order to the address above or email to: [overtures@cincinnatiarts.org](mailto:overtures@cincinnatiarts.org)



# CREATIVE WRITING CRITERIA

## CATEGORIES: Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction, Poetry, Play and Screenplay

1. All criteria set forth below apply to the Regional, Semi-Final and Final Competitions, unless otherwise noted.
2. Competitors will primarily be judged on the following:
  - Structure – clear story/poetic arc; flows together as a whole
  - Use of Language – proper/appropriate grammar and spelling; complexity of sentence and vocabulary
  - Theme – clear, well thought out; presented in creative way
  - Expressions – vivid imagery, language; unique voice
3. Competitors may submit work in only ONE category.
  - FICTION: Submit one short story or a novel excerpt (with one page synopsis)
  - CREATIVE NON-FICTION: Essay may not be a research paper. It may be opinion/editorial, biography, in-depth/feature story or personal essay
  - PLAYS/SCREENPLAYS: Monologue, one act or excerpt (with one page synopsis)
  - POETRY: Submit 5-10 poems
4. The following requirements, if not met, can result in a competitor having points deducted from his or her submission or, in some cases, disqualification. Please read carefully.
  - All work must be submitted as one manuscript. Standard 8.5"x11" with 1" margins and double-space
  - 5-20 PAGES OF WORK ARE REQUIRED. If submitting a section of a longer piece, include a one page synopsis
  - Pages must be numbered
  - Competitors must include a cover sheet with name, school and category of submission (poetry, fiction, etc.) as part of their manuscript
  - Manuscripts must be submitted online using the submission manager available on CAA's website
5. Competitors must also complete an application (consult the school coordinator).
6. **Semi-Finalists and Finalists** will be posted on CAA's website, and CAA will forward their submissions on to the Semi-Final and Final judges.
7. **Finalists** must attend the Finals Competition rehearsal and the Finals Competition/Awards Ceremony in order to be eligible for the award. Please prepare an excerpt of your writing to read, about one minute in length.



## DANCE CRITERIA

**CATEGORIES: Any style of dance (ballet, contemporary, cultural, folk, hip-hop, jazz, modern, and tap)**

1. All criteria set forth below apply to the Regional, Semi-Final and Final Competitions except where otherwise noted.
2. Competitors should perform their best work. Do not choose works that are more difficult than your current level of proficiency to impress the judges.
3. Open to SOLOISTS ONLY.
4. Competitors may perform in any style of dance. A competitor may choose to do more than one selection in his or her selected style.
5. Performances will be primarily judged on, but not limited to, the following:
  - Technical Skills – feet/placement, upper body/carriage; quality of movement
  - Musicality – rhythm, timing/phrasing, movement related to music
  - Stage Presence – confidence, focus, artistic expression, mastery of choreography
6. Performances must be **no less than 1.5 minutes but no more than 5 minutes** total. Competitors may not be stopped at 5 minutes but time is being kept and they may be penalized for performances that are excessive.
7. Competitors need not perform the same piece(s) they perform at the Regional Competition if they advance to the Semi-Final and Final Competitions.
8. For Regional Competition: Competitors must bring their own CD (no cassettes, records or mini disks, please.) CD player will be provided. The song should be in an uncompressed format. It is recommended that you bring a backup CD or flash drive. (A second backup can be on a phone.) For Semi-Final and Final Competitions: music must be submitted online prior to competition.
9. Essential props are permitted if they are an integral part of the dance.
10. **COSTUMES:** For the Regional and Semi-Final Competitions, costumes are optional. For the Finals Competition, costumes are required. Attire must be appropriate for the selection.
11. **CHOREOGRAPHY:** competitors perform works created by a professional choreographer.
12. Dancers are responsible for warm-up before their auditions. Warm-up space is provided.
13. Rosin will be provided.
14. Marley floor will be provided.
15. No parents, teachers or coaches will be allowed in the competition area.





# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CRITERIA

**CATEGORIES: Any instrument and instrumental styles are accepted.**

1. All criteria set forth here apply to the Regional, Semi-Final and Final Competitions, unless otherwise noted.
2. Open to SOLOISTS ONLY.
3. Competitors should perform their best work and not choose pieces that are more difficult than their current level of proficiency to impress the judges.
4. Performances will be judged on overall artistic excellence as demonstrated by:
  - Tone Quality – beauty, resonance, control, clarity, focus, consistency, warmth
  - Interpretation/Musicianship – style, phrasing, tempo, dynamics, emotional involvement, expression, continuity, mood; balance with accompaniment (if appropriate)
  - Technique – artistry, intonation, rhythm/rhythmic accuracy, articulation, precision, consistency, attacks and releases, bowing, tonguing, fingering, fluency, embouchure, pedaling
  - Choice of literature; mastery of technical difficulty
  - Improvisation if appropriate
  - Memorization
  - Stage presentation
5. Competitors may choose one or more pieces to perform within the time limit. **MUSIC MUST BE MEMORIZED.** If it is not, this will result in immediate disqualification.
6. Performances must be **no less than 1.5 minutes but no more than 5 minutes** total. In order to adhere to time limits, appropriate cuts in the music are acceptable. Competitors may not be stopped at 5 minutes but time is being kept and they may be penalized for performances that are excessive.
7. Competitors need not perform the same piece(s) they performed in the Regional round if they advance to the Semi-Final and Final Competitions.
8. Competitors must be accompanied by piano unless music is written as unaccompanied. Competitors must provide their **own** accompanist.
9. Competitors must supply their own instruments at the Competition (except piano).
10. Four copies of the music being performed with each measure clearly numbered and marked and the competitor's name on each copy must be furnished for the judges on the day of the competition. **NO COPYING SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT COMPETITION SITES. COMPETITORS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN COPIES.**
11. Only competitors and accompanists are allowed in the competition area. No parents, teachers or coaches will be allowed.



# THEATER CRITERIA

## **CATEGORIES: Drama and Musical Theater (Indicate which category on your application)**

1. All criteria set forth below apply to the Regional, Semi-Final and Final Competitions unless otherwise noted.
2. Competitors should perform their best work and not choose works that are more difficult than their current level of proficiency to impress the judges.
3. Age-appropriate material: You must select characters of an age that you can realistically portray.
4. Performances will be primarily judged on the following:
  - Oral/Voice Technique – enunciation, diction, intonation, breath control/support
  - Projection – physical and vocal, energy, focus
  - Character Development – portrayal is believable, truthful; encompasses physical detail, gives sense of environment; character arc
  - Understanding of Text – interpretation, memorization, age appropriate
  - Stage Presence – energize, confident, connects with audience; facial expressions and gestures connect to character
5. Prepared pieces must run **no less than 1.5 minutes but no more than 5 minutes** total and be performed with only a brief pause between the two selections. Competitors may not be stopped at 5 minutes but time is being kept and they may be penalized for performances that are excessive.
6. Competitors need not perform the same pieces they perform at Regional Competition if they advance to the Semi-Final and Final Competitions.
7. A chair will be provided for use. Simple hand props are permitted if they are an essential part of the scene and must be provided by the competitor.
8. **COSTUMES:** Costumes are optional. Blacks are appropriate at the Regional and Semi-Final Competitions. Audition apparel should enhance the work performed.
9. **DRAMA CATEGORY:** Competitors must select two monologues that are contrasting in mood, character, or time period.
10. **MUSICAL THEATER CATEGORY:**
  - Competitors must select one song from the musical theater repertoire and one monologue. The two selections must be contrasting in mood, character, or time period.
  - Competitors must be accompanied by piano for their song. Competitors must provide their own accompanist.
  - In order to adhere to time limits, appropriate cuts in the song are acceptable.
  - Dancing will not be adjudicated. Blocking of your musical number, although not required, is strongly encouraged.
11. Only competitors and accompanists are allowed in the competition area. No parents, teachers or coaches will be allowed.



## VISUAL ART CRITERIA

**CATEGORIES:** any medium (painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, textile design, jewelry, creative woodwork, pottery, graphic design, photography, or video)

1. All criteria set forth below apply to the Regional, Semi-Final and Final Competitions unless otherwise noted.
2. The judges are looking for an artistic statement expressed by your entire body of work, which means to go beyond the basic classroom assignments.
3. The Overture Awards requires at least **6 but not more than 8 pieces of your own work (no exceptions)**. These need not all be in the same medium. Work copied from another artist's work or photographs is not permitted.
4. Competitors will be primarily judged on the following:
  - Composition – works as a whole; elements flow together
  - Command of medium – skilled at using medium, uses appropriate technique for medium, understands medium's various uses
  - Technique – use of color, texture, perspective; skilled at drawing or modeling
  - Expression – vivid imagery; treats subject in a unique way
  - Presentation – work is in good shape and matted when appropriate; all pieces are of equal artistic merit
5. Deliver your work in a case that will adequately protect the work. **You must label the case/ portfolio on the outside with your name and school.**
6. Include with your portfolio a **cover sheet (required)** with the title, size, medium and a brief description of each piece. If the work was created or modified on a computer, please state this in your description. You can download a copy of the cover sheet from CAA's website. Put this into your portfolio case loose; do not attach it to anything. **FAILURE TO SUBMIT COVER SHEET MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.**
7. The size limit for all pieces is 30" x 40", not including mat.
8. 2-D artwork, except for stretched canvases, must be matted (preferably a neutral color), not framed. Do not tape separation sheets to mats.
9. Label all work on the back with your name, school, and the corresponding cover sheet number.
10. Label the top of each piece on the back.
11. For the Regional Competition, work that is unavailable due to another competition or exhibition may also be submitted as photographs on a flash drive or through the online submission manager (see below). Photos must be marked with a corresponding number on the cover sheet and **clearly marked as a photograph of artwork and not a photographic submission.**



## VISUAL ART CRITERIA continued

### 12. Video submissions:

- Time limit: 1.5 to 5 minutes in length
- If the piece is longer, select 5 minutes of it and include a one-page synopsis that states where the segment occurs.
- Must be in DVD format or through the online submission manager (see below).

### 13. 3-D work:

- For the Regional Competition, 3-D work must be submitted as photographs on a flash drive or through the online submission manager (see below). Provide more than one view. Photos must be marked with a corresponding number on the cover sheet and clearly marked as a photograph of artwork and not a photographic submission.
- For the Semi-Final and Final Competitions, you must submit your original work.

**14. Finalists** must attend the Finals Competition rehearsal and the Finals Competition/Awards Ceremony in order to be eligible for the award. Please prepare a statement about your artwork to read, about one minute in length. Also submit four photos of your artwork for a PowerPoint presentation during the Finals Competition.

### Online Submission Manager:

1. <https://cincinnatiartsassociation.submittable.com/submit>
2. Select the correct category: Overture Awards Visual Art
3. Create an account with the Competitor's name
4. **Regional:** use only if artwork is unavailable or is 3D or 4D; submission manager closes 3 days prior to the Regional Competition date
5. **Semi-Final:** do not use
6. **Final:** use to submit 4 photos for presentation during competition (your original work will also be on display)



## VOCAL MUSIC CRITERIA

**CATEGORIES: All vocal styles and music genres are accepted.**

1. All criteria set forth below apply to the Regional, Semi-Final and Final Competition unless otherwise noted.
2. Open to SOLOISTS ONLY.
3. Competitors should perform their best work. Do not choose works that are more difficult than your current level of proficiency to impress the judges. If you excel at a music genre, you should select two pieces from that genre.
4. Each contestant must prepare **two** musical selections. The selections must be contrasting in mood, character, or tempo. **THE MUSIC MUST BE MEMORIZED.**
5. Performances will be judged primarily on, but not limited to, the following:
  - Quality of Tone – clear timbre, focused, not breathy
  - Technique – ease of production, breath support, intonation, flexibility, legato
  - Communication/Interpretation/Diction – accurate pronunciation, clear understanding of text and interpreted in a sensitive manner
  - Musicianship – dynamics, tempo, rhythm, pitches, phrasing, style
  - Stage Presence – appearance, posture, confident, expressive
6. Performances must run **no less than 1.5 minutes but no more than 5 minutes** total. In order to adhere to time limits, appropriate cuts in the songs are acceptable. Competitors may be stopped at 5 minutes, at the discretion of the judges. Whether or not the audition is stopped at 5 minutes, competitors may be penalized for performances that are excessive.
7. Competitors need not perform the same pieces they perform at Regional Competition if they advance to the Semi-Finals and Finals Competitions.
8. Competitors must be accompanied by piano\*. Competitors must provide their own accompanist.
9. Only competitors and accompanists are allowed in the competition area. No parents, teachers or coaches will be allowed.

*\*If the genre typically has another instrument as accompaniment, please consult with the Overture Awards staff. All accompaniments must be live, no recorded music is permitted.*