



cincinnati arts association

OVERTURE AWARDS

2021

TOMORROW'S BRIGHTEST STARS

CREATIVE WRITING
DANCE
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
THEATER
VISUAL ARTS
VOCAL MUSIC



presents



Awards Announcement and Celebration
Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom
Celebrating Our Regions Young Artists

Previous Rounds

Regionals Competition Entry Date
Thursday, January 7, 2021

Semi-Finals Competition Announcement Date
Tuesday, January 26, 2021

OVERTURE AWARDS ARE ENDOWED BY
THE OTTO M. BUDIG FAMILY FOUNDATION

Presenting Sponsors



The Overture Awards

The Cincinnati Arts Association's Overture Awards 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. For the 2021 competition, students will win \$2,000 (one awarded in each discipline) or a \$750.00 finalist award (a total of 18 awarded). Judges at all levels of the competition are drawn from the professional arts community.

Cincinnati Arts Association Staff

President	Steve Loftin
Vice President, Education & Community Engagement	Joyce Bonomini
Education & Community Engagement Coordinator	Emily Spooner
Vice President, Development	Deborah Morgan
Additional CAA Staff Support	Finance Marketing & Communications Aronoff Center Operations Weston Art Gallery



Founded in 1992, the Cincinnati Arts Association (CAA) is 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 acclaimed arts education programs in 1995, CAA has reached more than 1.8 million persons.

FINALS COMPETITORS

CREATIVE WRITING



ALEXANDRA FROHN

- Senior, Seven Hills School
- Nominated by Marielle Newton

Alex Frohn attends the Seven Hills School, where she enjoys creative writing courses, Latin club, and Model U.N. She will be attending the Elliot School at George Washington University next fall to study international affairs. Her favorite poet is Billy Collins.



SAVANNAH GRIPSHOVER

- Junior, Conner Senior High School

Savannah Gripshover's earliest memories include making her own stories and characters to write about. Currently, she's in the young writers' group at her school and dabbles in several projects, primarily poetry and novels. She hopes to pursue a career in the arts and spend her life appreciating them.



JENNY HU

- Junior, Seven Hills School
- Nominated by John Rising

Jenny Hu is a junior at the Seven Hills School. An alum of the Iowa Young Writers Studio, she is a Scholastic National Gold Medalist in short story. Her work has been recognized or featured by *One Teen Story*, Bluefire, the Fitzgerald Museum, and Zoetic Press NBR#22, among others.



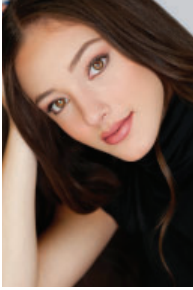
DEEYA PRAKASH

- Junior, Sycamore High School

Deeya Prakash is a junior at Sycamore High School with a passion for creative writing, and she is so excited to be a finalist for the second year in a row! After writing her first short story about fish in kindergarten, she knew she wanted to be an author and has written poems, memoirs, and even started a few novels ever since. She hopes to pursue writing in college and is so thankful to the Overture Awards for continuing to give her such amazing opportunities.

FINALS COMPETITORS

DANCE



BRAYLAN ENSCOE

- Junior, Laurel Springs School
- Studies at Just Off-Broadway

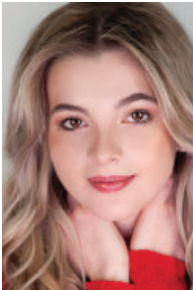
Braylan trains and teaches at Just Off Broadway, where she is a member of their nationally recognized performance team. She has won numerous regional and national dance awards, performed Clara in *The Nutcracker*, and was a cast member in the short film *Moving Henry* which premiered at The Dance Film Festival. Braylan's plans for the future include attending college in California or New York while majoring in dance.



GRACIE HARPER

- Senior, Anderson High School
- Studies at The Studio for Dance

Gracie is honored to be selected as an Overture Awards finalist. She trains at The Studio for Dance, and has performed with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra training in college and would like to thank her teachers and family for their support.



TRISTA MULLENIX

- Sophomore, School for Creative and Performing Arts
- Studies at Just Off-Broadway

Trista Mullenix is a Sophomore at the School for Creative and Performing Arts. She is also a member of Just Off Broadway's award-winning competition and convention team. She competes and attends many workshops across the country. She has also performed in several SCPA and Cincinnati Ballet productions. This is her second consecutive year making it into the finals, and she is extremely grateful and excited for this opportunity!



EMI TAO

- Senior, William Mason High School
- Studies at Bing Yang Chinese Performing Arts Center

Emi has grown up training in traditional Chinese dance from a young age. She has competed in national and international competitions, winning numerous awards such as Taoli Cup Platinum Finalist. She is forever thankful to her teacher and family for supporting and challenging her throughout the years.

FINALS COMPETITORS

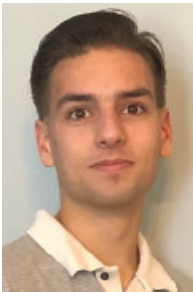
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



ASHLEY CAI

- Sophomore, William Mason High School
- Nominated by Benita Tse Leung

Ashley Cai is a sixteen-year-old pianist who attends William Mason High School. She started piano at the age of five, taking lessons from Dr. Benita Leung. Throughout the years, she has competed in numerous local and statewide piano competitions. Besides piano, Ashley also enjoys playing violin and guitar.



COLE KUBESCH

- Senior, Sycamore High School
- Nominated by the Sycamore High School Band Program

Cole is honored to have been selected as an Overture finalist. He is an oboist who has been playing for six years and has participated in many Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) events. In the fall, Cole plans on studying biochemistry and oboe performance.



NICHOLAS WOLFE

- Junior, Saint Xavier High School
- Nominated by Dr. Benita Leung, Leung Studios

Nicholas Wolfe is a sixteen-year-old pianist whose interest in the piano began at the age of five as he listened to his older sister playing. Ever since then, he has won numerous awards such as the Buckeye Auditions Festival regional winner, OMTA high honors award, Nathaniel Patch award, semifinalist at Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition, and a six-year distinction holder in ABRSM exams.



ANDREW YANG

- Senior, Seven Hills School
- Studies with Won-Bim Yim

Violinist Andrew Yang is a senior at the Seven Hills School. He has served as concertmaster of the Ohio All-State Orchestra and the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. Andrew is also a two-time National YoungArts Winner, an MTNA National Competition Finalist, and a competitor in the 9th International Louis Spohr Competition for Young Violinists.

FINALS COMPETITORS THEATER



BENJAMIN CRANE

- Junior, Homeschool
- Studies with Lincoln Chapman Studio

Benjamin Crane is excited and thankful to have the opportunity to perform for the Overture Awards finals. His favorite roles to date have been Marius (*Les Miserables*), Willard (*Footloose*), and most recently George (*Sunday in the Park with George*) for an online Sondheim collection showcase.



CLAIRE NORTHCUT

- Senior, William Mason High School
- Studies with Musical Arts Theatre

Claire Northcut is a Senior at William Mason High School and is very excited to be performing in the finals competition. She has been performing since she was six years old and is planning to major in musical theatre in college. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless love and support!



BELLA RANDLE

- Junior, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
- Nominated by Karl Resnik, Musical Arts Center

Bella Alexandra Randle is thrilled to be a part of the 2021 Overture Awards. Bella is a Junior at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy and has been studying theatre since elementary school. She studies vocal music with Karl Resnik and his team at the Musical Arts Center and is a member of YAPP.



MADELINE RITTER

- Senior, School for Creative and Performing Arts
- Nominated by Lisa Erickson, Cincinnati Conservatory MTI

Madeline's journey through musical theatre began in her sixth-grade year, competing in a local competition called Jr. Thespians. Having just moved to Ohio her senior year, Madeline is honored to be selected as an Overture finalist. After this year, she will continue to pursue theatre in college, hoping to someday make it a career.

FINALS COMPETITORS

VISUAL ART



SYDNEY LUEBBE

- Senior, Lakota West High School
- Nominated by Stephanie Gauer

Sydney Luebbe was born and raised in Liberty Township, Ohio. She was introduced to art at a young age by her uncle, who's an architect. Following in his footsteps, she developed a passion for science, mathematics, and art. Despite her challenging academic pursuits, she found comfort in expression through art.



MARIALINDA ROBLERO

- Senior, Lakota West High School
- Nominated by Stephanie Gauer

Marialinda Fabiola Roblero Escalante is originally from Guatemala. She traveled to the United States with her siblings and cousin. English was difficult for her at first, but she found comfort and success in art class. Art became the primary method of communication and expression for her.



NATHAN TYLER

- Senior, Sycamore High School
- Nominated by Peter Griga

Nathan is currently a senior at Sycamore High School. Outside of photography, he is an avid skateboarder, which he also sees as an art form, and one that has molded him as an artist and a person as a whole.



TIYA YEMPATI

- Senior, William Mason High School

Tiya has been drawing from a young age, but discovered a passion for the arts in middle school. Since then, some of Tiya's work has been awarded three gold keys at the regional level from the Scholastic Art Awards, a silver key on the national level, and an American Visions Award nomination.

FINALS COMPETITORS

VOCAL MUSIC



CLAIRE HARDEK

- Junior, Indian Hill High School
- Nominated by Dr. Kimberly Buczek, Cincinnati Academy of Performing Arts

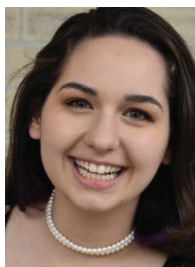
Claire Hardek, a 16-year-old Junior at Indian Hill High School, has been studying voice for five years. Awards include third place in the CAPA Vocal Scholarship Competition and a Superior Rating Class A OMEA Solo. Last year she portrayed Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera* at IHHS.



ELLA VAUGHN

- Sophomore, Walnut Hills High School
- Nominated by Karl Resnik, Musical Arts Center

Ella Vaughn is honored to be selected as a finalist. Ella discovered her love for classical music as she started studying at the Musical Arts Center her Freshman year. She also loves participating in her school's theatre and choir programs. She is so grateful to her family and teachers for supporting and guiding her.



MARY WILKENS

- Senior, Ursuline Academy
- Nominated by Melody Wallace

Mary began performing at a young age and participates in Ursuline and St. Xavier's theater programs. When not on the stage, Mary bowls for Ursuline, sings in her church choir, and sews costumes. Mary is a National Honor Society member and hopes to be a Speech Pathologist for vocal performers.



MARIA ZIEROLF

- Senior, Mount Notre Dame High School
- Nominated by Lincoln Chapman, Musical Arts Center

Maria is honored to be selected as an Overture finalist. She studies voice with Lincoln Chapman at the Musical Arts Center and is a member of the Young Artists Preparatory Program. She is extremely involved in Mount Notre Dame's theatre program and plans on studying musical theatre in the fall.

2021 OVERTURE AWARDS JUDGES

Each round of the competition – Regionals, Semi-Finals, and Finals – are adjudicated by a panel of judges who are professionals in their discipline.

CREATIVE WRITING

Regional: Alan Jozwiak, P. Andrew Miller, B.R. Smith, Sherry Cook Stanforth, Susan Steinkamp, Jeff Suess, Tyrone Williams

Semi-Final: Joseph Bates, Jennifer Habel, Rebecca Todd

Final: Mike Hennessey, Alison Russell, Sherry Cook Stanforth

DANCE

Chair: Jacqui Haas

Regional: Jessica Harris, Joy Detherage Jovet, Jeanita Olowe

Semi-Final: Christina Bolden, Tracy Bonner, Jennifer Rutherford

Final: Donna Grisez, Diane Lala, Dawn Kelly Moore

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Chair: John Gardner

Regional: Danielle Hundley, Karl Payne, Andrew Peoples, Ellen Croy Stephens, Siok Lian Tan

Semi-Final: Ellis Anderson, Bob Browning, Ellen Croy Stephens

Final: Kevin Holzman, Isaac Selya, Peter Stafford Wilson

THEATER

Chair: Jim Stump

Regional: Beth Harris, Katie Johannigman, Greg Procaccino, Regina Pugh, Joshua Steele, Robert Weidle

Semi-Final: Eric Byrd, Spring Starr Pillow, Cathy Springfield

Final: Carolyn Clifford, Pat Linhart, Damon Stevens

VISUAL ART

Chair: Kate Ball

Regional: Kip Eagen, Lisa Jameson, David Knight, Deogracias Lerma, Craig Lloyd, Emily Hanado Momhara, Lindsay Nehls, Paige Williams

Semi-Final: Richard Fruth, Kelly Phelps, Jane Winget Sheldon

Final: Terence Hammonds, Kendall Neyer, Paige Wideman

VOCAL MUSIC

Chairs: Charmaine Moore

Regional: Dione Bennet, Kim Gelwasser, Ellen Graham, Jiana Hunter, Danielle Steele, Jackie Stevens

Semi-Final: David Adams, Mari Opatz-Muni, Kathy Wade

Final: Angelique Clay, Vernon Hartman, Evans Mirageas

2021 OVERTURE AWARDS

SEMI-FINALISTS

CREATIVE WRITING

<i>Competitor</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>High School</i>
Elle Brinkman	11	Loveland High School
Kayla Estrada	12	Kings High School
Alexandra Frohn	12	Seven Hills School
Savannah Gripshover	11	Conner Senior High School
Ally Guo	12	William Mason High School
Brianne Haaga	9	William Mason High School
Anna Heilers	12	Mount Notre Dame High School
Jenny Hu	11	Seven Hills School
Nandini Likki	12	Seven Hills School
Abigail MacNeil	12	Kings High School
Nkemdilim (Anna Rose) Matu	9	William Mason High School
Rachael Molnar	11	William Mason High School
Nicole Pedicini	11	Loveland High School
Deeya Prakash	11	Sycamore High School
Sydney Robinson	11	Walnut Hills High School
Will Rueter	11	Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy

DANCE

<i>Competitor</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>High School</i>
Karley Burdick	11	West Clermont High School
Anne Cassidy	10	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Ava Cassidy	12	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Braylan Enscoe	11	Laurel Spring School
Eileen Fan	9	William Mason High School
Neha Gunda	11	William Mason High School
Gracie Harper	12	Anderson High School
Lauren Hunter	12	Seton High School
Tristalynne Mullenix	10	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Snigdha Potluri	12	William Mason High School
Emi Tao	12	William Mason High School
Drazen Wilmers	12	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Ellen Zhang	9	William Mason High School

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

<i>Competitor</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>High School</i>
Ashley Cai	10	William Mason High School
Maxwell Fairman	11	Walnut Hills High School
Arun Kamath	12	Sycamore High School
Christy Kim	9	William Mason High School
Cole Kubesch	12	Sycamore High School
Jonathan Luo	10	William Mason High School
Alexander Merk	12	Lakota West High School
Michael Nicht	11	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Ari Webb	10	Wyoming High School
Nicholas Wolfe	11	Saint Xavier High School
Madeline Wolfe	12	Ursuline Academy
Andrew Yang	12	Seven Hills School

THEATER

<i>Competitor</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>High School</i>
Olivia Busche	12	Walnut Hills High School
Molly Cambron	11	Milford High School
Anna Colletto	12	Loveland High School

(Theater continued on next page)

<i>Competitor</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>High School</i>
Benjamin Crane	11	Homeschool
Jordan Darnell	12	Seton High School
Maitte Delgado-Avila	11	Sycamore High School
Sarah Dykhuizen	12	Kings High School
Jay Giffin	11	St. Henry High School
Shealey Hannigan	11	Conner Senior High School
Payton Hines	11	Sycamore High School
Lucinda Hittle	11	Saint Ursula Academy
John Kushman	12	Indian Hill High School
Rory Miller	9	Ursuline Academy
Eva Milligan	12	Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
Maya Norman	12	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Claire Northcut	12	William Mason High School
Bella Randle	11	Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
Sara Reynolds	12	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Madeline Ritter	12	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Morgan Robbins	10	Sycamore High School
Ruby Sanchez	12	
Amir Shackelford	12	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Molly Stewart	11	Lebanon High School
Collin Stinnett	11	Homeschool
Sophia Trefz	10	School for Creative and Performing Arts
Maria van den Berg	12	Sycamore High School

VISUAL ART

<i>Competitor</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>High School</i>
Finnian Brooke	12	Elder High School
Ella Chaffee	12	Lakota West High School
Kayla Cleary	11	Oldenburg Academy
Eleanor Knellinger	12	Walnut Hills High School
Sydney Luebbe	12	Lakota West High School
Pranathi Madala	12	Sycamore High School
Michael McKeown	12	Covington Catholic High School
Jacob Owens	12	Kings High School
Abigail Richardson	11	Loveland High School
Marialinda Roblero	12	Lakota West High School
Tamar Sella	12	Walnut Hills High School
Nathan Tyler	12	Sycamore High School
Brian Usrey	12	Lakota West High School
Tiya Yempati	12	William Mason High School

VOCAL MUSIC

<i>Competitor</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>High School</i>
Calia Burdette	10	Scott High School
Forrest Bushstone	12	Loveland High School
Darah Chandler	10	Beechwood High School
Mitchell Davey	10	Covington Catholic High School
Ella Dreyer	11	Lebanon High School
Sela Foster	10	Homeschool
Rachel French	12	West Clermont High School
Nicholas Gundrum	11	Anderson High School
Claire Hardek	11	Indian Hill High School
Natalie Hudepohl	9	Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
Sabine Huhn	9	Sycamore High School
Annamarie Jowanovitz	11	Sycamore High School
Calynn Kimberlin	12	Walnut Hills High School
Susannah Langlitz	10	Oak Hills High Schools
Kassie Martin	11	Lakota West High School
Ella Vaughn	10	Walnut Hills High School
Anneliese White	12	Wyoming High School
Mary Wilkens	12	Ursuline Academy
Maria Zierolf	12	Mount Notre Dame High School

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