



National Society of Arts and Letters

Supporting young talent in the performing, literary, and visual arts since 1944.

Presents
The 2026 Martorella
Scholarship in Classical Voice

\$10,000 in Scholarship Funds
Awarded to Classically Trained Singers
Age 23-31

Sarah Rosales

Central Iowa Chapter
2025 National First Place Recipient



Applications due to Chapters by February 15, 2026

2025 Martorella Scholarship in Classical Voice

First Place Recipient



Sarah Rosales is a Salvadoran American coloratura soprano from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Opera career highlights include covering the role of Isabella Stewart Gardner in the world premiere of Damien Geter's American Apollo (Des Moines Metro Opera), Lauretta/Nan (Gianni Schicchi/American Gothical, Cedar Rapids Opera), Belle (Beauty & the Beast, Des Moines Metro Opera's Opera Iowa Program). Upcoming appearances include a role debut at The Glimmerglass Festival as Alicia in the world premiere of Derek Bermel & Sandra Cisneros' opera The House on Mango Street, as well as appearing in the ensemble of Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress.

In addition to opera, Sarah frequently performs musical theater, pop, & cumbia music through concert and cabaret work. She is the recipient of numerous vocal awards including 2nd prize in the John Alexander National Vocal Competition hosted by Opera Mississippi, 1st prize in the Bruce P. Carlson Scholarship Competition hosted by The Schubert Club, winner in the Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship hosted by National Society of Arts & Letters, the Nerenberg Award in the Musicians Club of Women Vocal Competition, 2nd prize in the Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota Vocal Competition, and 2nd prize/commission award in The George Shirley Vocal Competition. Most recently she was awarded 3rd place in the upper Midwest regionals of The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. In her free time, she loves to tend to her garden, cooking for friends and family, and spending time with her Irish Wolfhound mix dog, Miss Juniper Belle.

The Martorella Scholarship is in remembrance of my opera-loving grandfather. When I was a tiny child, he had me sit on his lap as he listened to the Metropolitan Opera radio program on Saturday afternoons. Who knew that I would start to sing at age nine, become a soloist in church, have leads in musical theatre and operas. My Papa was very proud of me! Now, I am pleased to be able to honor the memory of Bernardo Salvatore "Benny" Martorella by funding this scholarship to help young talented opera singers in his name!

—Judy Martorelli



National Chair Martorella Scholarship in Classical Voice

National 2nd Vice President NSAL

President NSAL NJ

This scholarship is available through the National Society of Arts and Letters to classical singers ages 23-31. Applicants must demonstrate exceptional talent and promise of future success. The scholarship funds are for private study, special training, or personal advancement in the applicant's future career. The funds may be used for college tuition, but not for housing, travel, or personal expenses. Scholarship funds are sent to the institution, teacher or program selected by the scholarship recipient. Recipients have 15 months to use their scholarships.

By participating in the Martorella Scholarship in Classical Voice you consent to your name, image, and likeness being listed on NSAL website and other materials including advertising, fundraising, and promotional purposes, without payment or additional compensation unless prohibited by law.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must:

1. Send proof of United States Citizenship, Naturalization or Permanent Residency.
2. Be at least 23 years old, but not older than 31 by March 1, 2026.
3. Applicants may only enter one chapter competition.

REPERTOIRE and APPLICATION

1. Prepare a current, high-quality video of three (3) vocal selections from opera, oratorio, and art song. All 3 categories must be represented. Repertoire must be sung in three languages, one of which must be English. Each of the songs must be contrasting in style, key, and mood. Aria and oratorio must be in original key and language. Oratorio may be sung from score, others to be sung from memory.
2. Selections may not be edited, and the audio may not be enhanced. The singer should be clearly visible. Do not submit a recording of a prior performance. Any audience should not be visible and absolutely no applause should be heard.
3. Upload the video to YouTube. Identify yourself by name only and introduce your song titles and composers. Please submit **ONE** link to all three performances. Total video time must not exceed 12 minutes.
4. Complete (**print or type**) the application form. Be clear about your commitment to a vocal career. Specify your plans for further study, e.g., advanced degree, private study or other special training.
5. Please include a current headshot and performance photograph.
6. Email all materials to the NSAL Chapter nearest your current residence by February 15, 2026. Include the completed application form, citizenship document and URL link to your YouTube video. See Chapter Contacts for phone numbers, and emails.

CHAPTER ADJUDICATION

1. Qualified judges from each NSAL chapter will select a maximum of **2** performers from the YouTube auditions.

DEADLINES

1. Contestant applications are due to chapters by February 15, 2026.
2. Chapters must email only 2 finalists' applications and YouTube audition information to the National Committee Chair before the deadline of March 10, 2026.
3. Martorella Voice Scholarship recipients will be announced in April 2026.

MARTORELLA SCHOLARSHIP IN CLASSICAL VOICE

JUDY MARTORELLI, NATIONAL CHAIR

52 Kahdena Rd, Morristown NJ 07960

973-267-0952 smartorielly@verizon.net

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS
CONTACTS FOR THE MARTORELLA SCHOLARSHIP IN VOICE

Alabama: Birmingham Chapter
Les Fillmer
205-492-6688
les.fillmer@earthlink.net

NSAL Arizona
Jeremy Aye
646-831-1385
jeremyaye@me.com

NSAL Arkansas
Sherry Henderson
501-663-5465, 501-352-0339
slhhsinger@yahoo.com

NSAL of Florida
Judith Asselta
561-756-5412
judiasselta@gmail.com

NSAL Illinois
Sarah Wigley
612-483-0472
swjohn@illinois.edu

Indiana Chapter of NSAL
Mary Alice Cox
812-320-2109
maryalicecoxsvm@gmail.com

Iowa Chapter of NSAL
Tara Brandt
303-618-1583
tbrandt@tarabrandt.com

Kentucky Chapter
Sarah Moore
859-338-1490
seomoore@yahoo.com

NSAL New Jersey: NJ, Delaware & New England
Judy Martorelli
973-267-0952
smartorielly@verizon.net

NSAL-New York Chapter
Margaret Johnson
716-451-4004
mjohnson12339@gmail.com

Ohio River Valley Chapter: Ohio and West Virginia:
Jayne Whitlow
304-483-1525
jaynewv@hotmail.com

Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh Chapter
Norman Brown
412-881-3188
nbrownicon@gmail.com

NSAL-St Louis Chapter
Adelia Parker-Castro
314-541-2440
adeliaparkercastro@gmail.com

**Washington DC Chapter: District of Columbia, Maryland,
and Northern Virginia:**
Kate Vetter Cain
202-365-7693
katevettercain@gmail.com

NSAL Members at Large
Denna Shiban
727-642-5094
lucienne@mindspring.com



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SPONSORING CHAPTER _____

APPLICATION FOR THE MARTORELLA SCHOLARSHIP IN CLASSICAL VOICE

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Home Address: _____
Street City State & Zip

Date of Birth: _____ Age on 3/1/26 _____ Sex: _____

US Citizenship Status: (Please Circle) CITIZEN NATURALIZED CITIZEN PERMANENT RESIDENT

Federally Recognized Document: (Please Circle) BIRTH CERTIFICATE PASSPORT
NATURALIZATION DOCUMENT USCIS PERMANENT RESIDENT

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Alternate Contact: _____
Name Phone Email

Educational Background

College/University	Degree(s)	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Have you attended apprentice, young artist, or other training programs? ____ YES ____ NO

If yes, please list all attended and give dates.

Below, please write a short biography stating your commitment to a vocal career, specific graduate work, pertinent career information, study abroad. Include your hometown, hobbies, special interests, and accomplishments including those outside of singing and performing. (Biography may be attached)

What are your plans if you receive a Martorella Voice Scholarship? e.g., private voice lessons, summer workshops, music programs, college tuition, etc. (The Martorella Scholarship does not cover housing, travel, or personal expenses)

Repertoire

(From Opera, Oratorio and Art Song - one selection must be in English)

Aria _____ Opera _____
Composer _____

Oratorio Solo _____ Oratorio _____
Composer _____

Art Song _____
Composer _____

Applicant Signature

I certify that I have read the scholarship requirements and that the information submitted by me is true and correct.

Signature

Date

Email your completed application, citizenship document and the link to your uploaded YouTube video to an NSAL Chapter nearest your current residence by February 15, 2026.
(See Chapter Contacts for addresses, phone numbers and email