



National Society of Arts and Letters

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

2026 SHIRLEY RABB WINSTON

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION IN CLASSICAL VOICE

\$17,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP PRIZES!

Introducing:

2025 National First Place Winner (19-22) – CATHERINE CREED

New Jersey Chapter



****Applications due to Chapters by February 1, 2026**

www.arts-nsalnatl.org



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SHIRLEY RABB
WINSTON
SCHOLARSHIP IN
CLASSICAL VOICE
COMPETITION
FIRST PLACE



2025 First Place Winner in the Ages 19–22

Division, Catherine Creed is a first-year graduate student at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in the studio of Nova Thomas. In May 2024, she graduated from the Eastman School of Music and studied with Nicole Cabell. Recently, she was the First Prize winner of the Eastman Opera Voice Competition, judged by Christine Goerke, a Grand Finalist at the Opera Grand Rapids Competition. This spring she will portray Florestine in Rice University's production of *The Ghost of Versailles* directed by Patricia Racette. This summer she will be making her professional debut singing Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and is covering the role of Soeur Constance in *Dialogues des Carmélites* at Wolf Trap Opera. She has been in Eastman Opera Theater's productions as Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Pemphredo in *We've Got Our Eye on You*, Destino in *La Calisto* and made her European debut

singing Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the National Theatre in Prague. She was the soloist with the Eastman Philharmonia singing Poulenc's *Gloria*. In 2023, she attended SongFest as a Brown-Loranger Fellow singing Strauss' Brentano Lieder in collaboration with Javier Arrebola.

ABOUT THE SHIRLEY RABB WINSTON SCHOLARSHIP IN CLASSICAL VOICE

The National Society of Arts and Letters awards an annual scholarship in honor of the late Shirley Rabb Winston, a distinguished mezzo-soprano who enjoyed a long and successful operatic career. The scholarship is open to singers ages 16 to 22 who demonstrate exceptional talent and strong potential for future success. Funds are intended to support private study, special training, college tuition, or other opportunities that contribute to the advancement of the recipient's future career, but may not be used for housing, travel, or personal expenses. Awards are paid directly to the recipient's chosen institution, teacher, program, etc., and must be used within 15 months of notification.



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ELIGIBILITY, RULES, AND GUIDELINES CERTIFICATION

BEFORE PROCEEDING:

Have you read and understand the document “2026 NSAL WINSTON SCHOLARSHIP: OFFICIAL ELIGIBILITY, RULES, AND GUIDELINES” available on the NSAL website (www.arts-nsalnatl.org)? If not, please review that document carefully before continuing with this application.

If you are 18 years or older as of today, please complete the certification below.

I certify that I have read and understand the Rules and Eligibility requirements, that I meet the scholarship criteria, and that all information I provide in this application is true and correct.

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

If the applicant is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must provide consent for participation in the Winston Scholarship.

By signing below, the parent or legal guardian confirms that they have reviewed the application, grant permission for the applicant to participate, affirm agreement with the Rules and Eligibility, and confirm that the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of their knowledge.

A separate Media Release Agreement will also need to be signed to complete the application process.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____



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SHIRLEY RABB WINSTON SCHOLARSHIP IN CLASSICAL VOICE

-CHAPTER CONTACTS-

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NSAL Members at Large

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****NSAL ARIZONA CHAPTER**

Arizona does not participate in the Winston Art and Voice programs. Please apply to the next closest chapter to you or to Members at Large.



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APPLICATION

THE 2026 SHIRLEY RABB WINSTON SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION IN CLASSICAL VOICE

Choose Your Chapter: _____

NOTE:

Select the NSAL Chapter Nearest Your Home or School. If No Chapter Exists in Your State, Select "Member At Large".

** The New York Chapter requires a \$15 application fee from each applicant. Payment instructions will be provided directly by the Chapter Chair after you submit this form.*

*** The Arizona Chapter does not participate in the Winston Voice Scholarship. If you are in Arizona, please select "Member at Large".*

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Name: _____
- Home Address: _____
- School Name: _____
- School Address: _____
- Date of Birth: _____
- Age on 3/1/26: _____
- Sex: _____
- U.S. Citizenship Status (Circle One): Citizen / Naturalized Citizen
- Federally Recognized Document (Circle One):
 - Birth Certificate
 - Passport
 - Naturalization Document
- Home Phone: _____
- Cell Phone: _____
- Email: _____



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ALTERNATE CONTACT

- Name: _____
- Phone: _____
- Email: _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- High School: _____
- College: _____

If in high school: What course of study do you plan to follow after graduation?

If in college: What is your major?

Future career plans:

SCHOLARSHIP USE

What are your plans if you receive a Winston Voice Scholarship? (e.g., summer workshops, music programs, college tuition; the scholarship does not cover housing, travel, or personal expenses)



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REPERTOIRE

List three contrasting solo selections from opera, art song, or oratorio. One must be in English.

All repertoire and video submission requirements (including time limits, and YouTube/playlist naming guidelines) are detailed in the **2026 NSAL WINSTON SCHOLARSHIP: OFFICIAL ELIGIBILITY, RULES, AND GUIDELINES** available at www.arts-nsalnatl.org. Please review that document carefully before completing this section.

- **Video #1: Title and Composer**
(Include Poet if Art Song): _____
- **Video #2: Title and Composer**
(Include Poet if Art Song): _____
- **Video #3: Title and Composer**
(Include Poet if Art Song): _____

Along with this application, please also submit:

- A current, high-quality headshot or performance photograph (JPG, PNG, or PDF).
- A 150–200 word biography (typed and attached).

CERTIFICATION & SIGNATURE

I certify that I have read and understand the Rules and Eligibility requirements, that I meet the scholarship criteria, and that all information I submit is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit your completed application, proof of U.S. citizenship, headshot, bio, and the link to your unlisted YouTube playlist to the NSAL Chapter nearest your home or school prior to February 1, 2026.

See Chapter Contacts for phone numbers and emails

www.arts-nsalnatl.org



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MEDIA RELEASE AGREEMENT

By participating in the Winston Classical Voice Scholarship Competition, I hereby grant permission to the National Society of Arts and Letters (NSAL), its Chapters, representatives, and affiliates, to use media content associated with my participation, under the following terms:

1. Submitted Materials

I understand that any videos, photos, or recordings I submit as part of my scholarship application or competition process may be used by NSAL for purposes that include, but are not limited to:

- Publicity
- Promotion
- Educational content
- Fundraising
- Archival documentation

These materials may appear in print, online, and/or broadcast media.

2. Event Photography and Videography

I acknowledge that NSAL or its representatives may take photographs, video, or audio recordings during any events, workshops, lessons, or performances related to the competition. These recordings may be used in whole or in part for promotional and archival purposes. NSAL reserves the right to determine which media are captured, retained, or published.

3. Optional and Incidental Use

NSAL may, at its discretion, choose not to use submitted or captured media. Submission does not guarantee use. Additionally, group photos or event-wide video footage may include my likeness incidentally, even if I am not the primary subject.

4. Promotional and Educational Use

I grant NSAL the unrestricted right to use, reproduce, edit, publish, and distribute any media containing my likeness or performance for:

- Printed publications
- Websites, social media, and Digital Platforms
- Press releases, Advertisements, and Other Media
- Slide decks and Educational Presentations



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5. Waiver and Release

I release NSAL, its volunteers, affiliates, and media partners from any expectation of compensation or liability for the use of such media. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may withdraw media consent for future use by submitting a written request. However, previously published materials may remain in circulation.

6. Minors

If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must sign this release.

Participant Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (if under 18): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____



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ELIGIBLE USAGE & RESOURCES

Applicants for the Winston Voice Scholarship may choose to pursue specialized training or career advancement opportunities of their choice - such as private lessons, language and diction coaching, operatic role preparation, participation in summer voice programs, degree programs and more.

Below, you will find a link to the CS Music directory, a publicly accessible resource featuring some 300 classical opportunities including summer festivals, university-affiliated programs, Young Artist Programs, opera company training initiatives, etc....This directory is not intended to be an exclusive list of eligible programs, but rather a helpful starting point for exploring potential uses of the Winston Scholarship.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A LIST OF PROGRAMS:
(<https://www.csmusic.net/organizations>)

