



The Audition & Judging Process

THE AUDITION PROCESS

Round 1 (Video Auditions): April 1 – June 14, 2026

- Eligible students should upload their video audition via our secure online portal, singing a song of their choice. Students will likely use the same performance piece throughout the competition, subject to the sole discretion of the artistic director.
- Videos should be three (3) minutes max.
- Piano accompaniment, personal instrument usage or a capella are preferred, but recorded accompaniment is allowed.
- Please avoid singing any of the following songs from last year:
What Remains (Drew Gasparini), *A Song For You* (Donny Hathaway), *For Her* (Jason Howland, Nathan Tysen), *Killing Me Softly* (Fugees), *I'm Alive* (Aaron Tveit), *Creep* (Radiohead), *I Have Confidence* (Rodgers and Hammerstein), *Wait a Bit* (Anthony Drewe, George Stiles), *I Will Always Love You* (Whitney Houston), *Fallin'* (Alicia Keys), *Astonishing* (Mindi Dickstein, Jason Howland), *I'm Still Hurting* (Anna Kendrick) and *For Good* (Wicked).
- A group of recognized music professionals will judge the online submissions and select students to advance to the next round.



Round 2 (Virtual Auditions): Saturday/Sunday, June 27 and 28, 2026

- **Please check your email for your Round 2 next step emails**, including your spam folders
- Students will perform LIVE (via Zoom) in front of a panel of judges. The top 25 students will advance to the Semifinals.

Round 3 (Semifinals): Sunday, July 12, 2026

- Students will be divided into two groups and perform their songs live in front of a panel of judges at Mandel JCC.
- Students will also have a short interview as part of the process.
- Judges will select the top 10 students and two alternates to perform during The Finals.

Finalist Rehearsal Week: August 17-22, 2026 (Times TBD)

- Upon request, religious accommodations will be considered by our Artistic Director.

The Finals: Sunday, August 23, 2026 • 6:30 pm

- The Top 10 students and two alternates will perform live on stage.
- The students will have musical accompaniment during their solo performances.
- The Top Four students selected by the judges will be asked to perform a final time at The Finals.

THE JUDGING PROCESS

Contestants will be judged by accomplished, music professionals representing Northeast Ohio. The judges are qualified in a wide variety of musical genres including, but not limited to, pop, R&B, classical, jazz and musical theater.

For Rounds 1, 2 and 3, a panel of judges will choose the students who will advance.

At The Finals, celebrity judges will select the Top Four students who will perform a second time. The audience, in conjunction with the judges, will then select the order of the winners.

