

Announcing the **2018 GRADY-RAYAM PRIZE** **in Vocal Performance**

A project of The "Negro Spiritual" Scholarship Foundation ▪ www.gradyrayam.org

(LOWER DIVISION)

Key Dates

Monday, October 16, 2017:	Application Period opens (audition materials accepted)
Friday, November 17, 2017:	Application Period closes (deadline for material submission is 11:59 p.m.)
Monday, November 27, 2017:	Prize Candidates notified
Monday, December 4, 2017:	Candidate Forms and Fees due (submission deadline is 11:59 p.m.)
Monday, December 11, 2017:	Competition Packets distributed to selected Prize Candidates
Saturday, February 10, 2018:	GRADY-RAYAM PRIZE Lower Division Competition

The Prize

Named for +Bishop Thomas J. Grady and opera singer Curtis Rayam, the GRADY-RAYAM PRIZE in Vocal Performance is awarded to selected singers who demonstrate superior musicianship and vocal technique in the performance of arranged Negro spirituals.

A scholastic assistance grant in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) is awarded to one Female Vocalist and one Male Vocalist. Grant monies are paid directly to winning students who gain admission to institutions of higher learning within two years of date of graduation from high school and are enrolled and matriculating for full-time study. Winners of the Prize also become year-long ambassadors who promote America's Negro spiritual songs by performing under the auspices of the "Negro Spiritual" Scholarship Foundation and Project GRADY-RAYAM. All candidates will be recognized for their participation.

Eligibility

Academically qualified senior high students (eleventh or twelfth grade year) who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents currently attending school in the state of Florida are eligible to apply. Individuals who are currently contracted with musical or theatrical professional management are not eligible to compete on any level. Previous winners of GRADY-RAYAM PRIZE awards on any level are not eligible to return to competition.

Audition Procedures

- Interested vocalists must apply using the electronic form at www.gradyrayam.org/competitions. They must also submit a recording of themselves singing an assigned excerpt which a selection committee will use to assess the musicianship and technical facility of applicants.
 - The audition excerpt for the 2018 competition is drawn from the spiritual "I Don't Feel No-Ways Tired" (arr. Markus Williams). The excerpt is available at www.gradyrayam.org/competitions
 - Vocalists must produce an audio recording of the excerpt sung with the piano accompaniment that well represents their abilities. The submitted recording must be a single take of decent quality that is free of any added, artificial effects.
 - The recording must be submitted by the indicated deadline along with the requested application information.
- Candidates who are invited to participate in the competition will be required to confirm their participation and submit a non-refundable processing fee of \$25.00 by the indicated deadline.

Repertoire

Each participant will be required to perform two songs, one assigned and one selected, from memory. Participants will be sent a study copy of the assigned piece and a list of songs recognized as Negro spirituals to assist in choosing a second selection (*). Both songs will be performed to the accompaniment of an acoustic piano using a staff accompanist. Participants must submit a pdf copy of their selected spiritual in advance.

Competition

The competition will be held Saturday, 10th February 2018 in Lakeland, FL on the campus of Florida Southern College. Twenty singers - preferably ten males and ten females - will be invited to compete. In the first round, each vocalist will perform the required piece. In the second round, each vocalist will perform their selected piece. A panel of judges will separately award numerical scores for each piece performed using an established point system. Decisions of the judges are final.

Performance Criteria

Judges will award points for:

- Technique based upon tone quality, intonation, and vocal production.
- Musicianship/Artistry based upon inflection, diction, authenticity, rhythmic energy, and memorization.
- Stage Presence based upon demeanor, posture, and sincerity of delivery.

(*) The "Negro Spiritual" Scholarship Foundation has a collection of commissioned Negro spirituals arranged for solo voice and piano available to purchase. Please visit our website or contact the foundation by phone for more information.



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in partnership with
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