

Rules and Regulations Official Rules - GSO Rising Stars

Eligibility & How to Enter

GSO Rising Stars is open to anyone aged 10 to adult. The contest is open to individual vocals only - not duos or groups - not having an existing or previous recording contract. There will be three age brackets for the competition: child, youth, and adult. Eligibility is limited to the first 100 applicants in each age bracket.

Applicants under the age of 18 must have parent/guardian signed permission on the registration form.

Applicants must be able to perform on one of the Audition Dates: on March 09 or March 10, 2012; the Semi-Finals on March 24, 2012 and the Finals on April 14, 2012. No exceptions.

Immediate family members of the GSO Board are not eligible to enter.

Eligible applicants can enter GSO Rising Stars by pre-registering by mail.

A \$15.00 fee is due with the registration form. Each applicant will receive an e-mail confirmation upon receipt of the registration form and payment. You may also register at the door; however, the fee is \$20.00 and spaces are not guaranteed. There will be no refunds.

Twelve vocalists from each age bracket will be selected to advance to the semi-final round following the auditions. All contestants must bring the music accompaniment for the semi-final round in the event that they are selected as one of the twelve semi-finalists.

Competitors selected as semi-finalists agree to raise at least \$100.00 to be donated to the event's charity, Greenville Symphony Orchestra. Prizes will be awarded to contestants raising over \$250. All vocalists advancing to the semi-finals must submit a packet that includes their pledge forms and money (checks payable to Greenville Symphony Society, Inc.) . Mailed packets must be postmarked by March 17, 2012 and addressed to Carolyn McCright, Rising Stars Registrar, Greenville Symphony Society, PO Box 364, Greenville, PA 16125. Any contestant who does not deliver the pledge money as specified will not be eligible to perform at the semi-finals.

In addition to the funds raised, contestants proceeding to the semi-final and final rounds must provide GSO Rising Stars organizers with their own prerecorded musical accompaniment on CD. The accompaniment will be played during their on-stage performance. Songs must be edited to no longer than 4 minutes in length. Performers whose songs go beyond the 4-minute-limit will be disqualified.

CDs must be submitted with pledge money and pledge sheet as specified above.

A contestant will be disqualified if a majority of the members of the panel of judges deems the song content to be excessively vulgar, profane, rude, sexually explicit, or beyond acceptable standards of family entertainment. The decision to disqualify will be final, binding and not subject to appeal.

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Application Deadline

Pre-registration forms must be postmarked by March 2, 2012.

Applicants wishing to register after this time must do so at the door for \$20 on the audition date.

Judging and Selection of Contestants and Winners

A panel of judges selected by GSO Rising Stars will judge all singers. The judges will take into account the vocal quality, performance style, and whether the music suits the applicant's voice.

At the GSO Rising Stars Semi-finals, 6 contestants from each age category will be selected to advance to the Finals. At the Finals, the contestant from each age bracket with the overall highest score, as determined jointly by the panel of judges and the audience, will be chosen as first place winner.

Decisions of the judges are final and not subject to appeal. Feedback and score sheets will not be provided to contestants at any level of the competition.

Songs to be Performed in Auditions and Finals

Contestants must perform an acappella selection at the audition. Songs performed at the semi-finals and finals must be to recorded musical accompaniment.

Notification of Selected Applicants and Contestants

If a selected contestant is not available to continue or fails to meet the fundraising or musical deadlines for the competition she/he will forfeit any claim to continue as a contestant and may be replaced with another contestant as selected by the panel of judges. Regardless, the GSO Rising Stars Contest events will continue without delay or adjournment with the remaining contestants.

Prizes for Winners

The First Prize in each category is \$750 for Adult, \$750 for Youth, and a \$750 U.S. Savings Bond for Child. Additionally, each first place winner will receive a minimum of one hour professional studio time toward the production of a demo CD, an opportunity to perform at Kennywood during the summer Celebrate America 2012, and four passes to Kennywood Amusement Park. Each winner will receive an opportunity to sing with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra during the 2012-2013 season.

Limits of Responsibility

Applicants agree that GSO Rising Stars is not liable to them or to their heirs and assigns for death, personal injury, losses or damages of any kind caused by traveling to or from GSO Rising Stars venues, being present at the venues, participating in the contest or being selected to, or disqualified from continuing in the contest.

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General Conditions

Eligible applicants who participate in GSO Rising Stars events agree to abide by and be bound by these Official Rules and by the decisions of the GSO Rising Stars panels of judges, whose decisions are final, binding and not subject to appeal. Lack of civility or failure to abide by the rules will result in disqualification from the contest or forfeiture of prizes, without any liability on the part of GSO Rising Stars, sponsors or any other person, firm or corporation.

Contestants participating in the Finals agree to provide such information and cooperation to GSO Rising Stars staff or panel of judges as may be requested in order to verify their eligibility and compliance with these Official Rules.

Applicants agree to the use of their photograph, name, personal biography, demo CD or audio tape, and recorded or live GSO Rising Stars music performances for all promotional purposes related to GSO Rising Stars 2012 and future years, and the use of that information in all forms of media and communication related to GSO Rising Stars without compensation or notice, and hereby release GSO Rising Stars and its organizers, from any claims or liability arising out of or with respect to such use.

Applicants are responsible for their own arrangements and expenses incurred to participate in GSO Rising Stars. None of those involved in any capacity in organizing, executing, judging or supplying prizes for GSO Rising Stars is responsible for covering or reimbursing any expenses incurred by applicants.

All applications and demo CDs are the property of GSO Rising Stars and will not be returned to applicants.

GSO Rising Stars reserves the right to terminate or amend these Official Rules, any aspect or all aspects of the GSO Rising Stars contest in any way at any time, without notice, should anything interfere with the fair and proper conduct of the contest as envisaged by these rules. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that he/she complies with these rules. Any changes or amendments to the Official Rules will be posted online at www.thegreenvillesymphony.org

While recognizing that judges, corporate sponsors, and contestants may know each other outside of this competition, GSO Rising Stars asks that no contact or communication intended to influence, or that would tend to influence, a judge's decision about an applicant's or contestant's performance shall occur between contestants and GSO Rising Stars judges or corporate sponsors.

Tell me more (FAQs)...

1. What's the deadline for entries?

Pre-registration must be postmarked by March 2, 2012. Applicants wishing to register after this time must do so at the door for \$20 on the audition date.

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2. Who is eligible to enter?

GSO Rising Stars is open to anyone aged 10 to adult. The contest is open to individual vocals only - not duos or groups - not having an existing or previous recording contract. There will be three age brackets for the competition: Child, Youth and Adult. Immediate family members of the GSO Board members are ineligible to enter.

3. How many finalists will be selected?

Our panel of judges will select 6 entries from each age bracket to proceed to the Final GSO Rising Stars event on April 14, 2012.

4. What are the dates and locations of the auditions?

GSO Rising Stars will provide two audition dates. They are Friday, March 9, 7 pm and Saturday, March 10 at 10 am. Both auditions will be held at the Thiel College Passavant Center. Auditions will end when all registered individuals have completed their audition. If you are not pre-registered, you should show up as early as possible to enhance your chance of securing an audition. The semi-finals will be held on March 24, 2012. Finals will be April 14, 2012.

5. Are duos, singing groups and bands eligible to enter? No.

6. I'm under 18. Can I enter?

Yes, you can - but be sure a parent/guardian signs your registration form.

7. If selected as a finalist, do I need to provide my own backup music for performances?

Yes, you do. We require that all finalists provide GSO Rising Stars with a pre-recorded, good-quality selection of up to 4 minutes.

8. What are the judging criteria?

Judges will be looking for vocal quality, performance style, and a choice of music that suits your voice.

9. Are all music styles eligible?

All varieties of music are eligible as deemed appropriate by the judges for GSO Rising Stars.

10. Where will the money from this event go?

All proceeds will be donated to the Greenville Symphony Orchestra. See their website at: www.thegreenvillesymphony.org

11. I've still got questions - what can I do?

If you have additional questions, please select the "Contact Us" button on this website and e-mail Carolyn McCright, GSO Rising Stars Registrar.

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