

OPERA CLUB OF THE VILLAGES

September 12, 2025

Dear Music Educators and Guidance Counselors:

We are very excited to announce that we will be conducting the Harold S. Schwartz Music Scholarship Program sponsored by the Opera Club of the Villages again this year.

We are also proud to announce that we will again award substantial music scholarships to deserving graduating juniors and seniors from Marion, Lake and Sumter Counties. This year, the first prize will be a music scholarship of up to \$12,000, second place will be up to \$10,000, third up to \$8,000 and fourth prize will be up to \$6,000. We are adding junior students to the scholarship program and if they win they will be able to apply the winnings to their college of choice in their senior year. We hope that one of your graduating students will be a Schwartz Scholarship winner.

Both instrumentalists and vocalists are eligible to participate. Specific requirements are outlined on the enclosed flyer listing eligibility criteria. In addition to this document, we are also enclosing the actual application form to be filled out by candidates. Please distribute these materials to your junior and senior music students. Additional copies are also available on our website, operaclubofthevillages.com.

This year the undersigned will be serving as Chair of the Harold S Schwartz Music Scholarship Committee. We are happy to administer this wonderful program and we are committed to providing the opportunity to win a Schwartz Music Scholarship to as many talented young musicians as possible.

Please contact me at the email address listed below if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Pearl Kosa
Chair, Harold S. Schwartz Scholarship Committee
pearl32162@gmail.com

OPERA CLUB OF THE VILLAGES

Harold Schwartz Scholarships for College Music Majors/Minors

JUNIORS & SENIORS, here is your chance to apply

Instrumentalists (brass, woodwinds, piano, percussion, strings, etc.) and Singers are eligible!

First Prize up to \$12,000

Eligibility:

1. Must be graduating from a Lake, Marion or Sumter County high school or academy in spring 2026 with a minimum grade point average of 3.0.
2. Must be majoring or minoring in music at the college or university of the student's choice during the next academic year.
3. Must be available to audition on **Saturday, April 4, 2026** in the Villages. Applicant will be expected to perform **one** piece of published music.
4. Winners **must** perform at an Opera Club meeting at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center in The Villages on the evening of Thursday, April 23rd, 2026 to claim their awards.

Awards:

Financial awards are: **First prize up to \$12,000, Second prize up to \$10,000, Third prize up to \$8,000, Fourth prize up to \$6,000.** Funds are for tuition, lab fees, or books/sheet music for September through May of the next academic year. Extenuating circumstances will be weighed. Scholarship disbursements will be made in two installments, payable to the college or university of the student's choice.

PLEASE NOTE: Scholarship disbursements are made in August and December with one half of the Scholarship amount being paid with each disbursement. Failure to use these funds within the first school year will result in forfeiture of all award funds back to the Harold S. Schwartz Scholarship Program. Any failure to comply with any other requirements as stated in these documents will also result in a complete forfeiture of all scholarship funding. If scholarships from other venues are awarded to you to cover your first year of college or university, our award will be reduced to cover any remaining academic fees up to the maximum remainder of the award.

Deadline:

APPLY EARLY – AUDITION SCHEDULE POSITIONS ARE LIMITED. Applications must be postmarked by Monday, March 2, 2026. Applications are available through high school music teachers, guidance counselors, or from the Opera Club of The Villages website: www.operaclubofthevillages.com.

Submit Applications to:

Ms. Pearl Kosa, Scholarship Chair
Opera Club of the Villages
333 Colony Blvd., #306
The Villages, FL 32162

OPERA CLUB OF THE VILLAGES

Harold S. Schwartz Music Scholarship Application Form – 2026/27

Please type or print **clearly** – We will be contacting you via email or cell phone

Name _____
Address – Street/City/State/Zip _____
E-mail address _____
Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Parent's/Guardian's Names _____
High School Name/City/State/Zip _____
H.S. Graduation Date _____ Grade Point Average _____
Preferred College or University _____
Music Degree Desired _____
Musical Talent: Vocal Type/Instrument _____
Audition Selection/Composer _____

Please Note: To apply you must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and plan to major or minor in music in college during the 2026-27 academic year.

Your accompanist (if required) **must arrive at the same scheduled time as you.** We can provide an audition accompanist to a limited number of applicants. Indicate in a letter attached to your application if you would like to use our accompanist.

To be submitted with this application:

1. On separate sheets of paper with your name on each page, provide two essays:
Essay 1: Describe your musical background and accomplishments
Essay 2: Describe the composition selected and why you selected it for the audition
 - Note: Your audition selection **need not be opera or classical music, but must be published music**, approximately five minutes in length.
2. Official proof of your grade point average issued by your school and sealed
3. Two letters of recommendation
 - one from a high school guidance counselor or music teacher
 - one from a community or business leader
4. One copy of the sheet music for your audition piece.

All required documentation must be postmarked by the deadline of Monday, March 2, 2026

Mail to: Ms. Pearl Kosa, Scholarship Chair
Opera Club of the Villages
333 Colony Blvd., #306
The Villages, FL 32162

NOTE: APPLY EARLY! AUDITION SCHEDULE POSITIONS ARE LIMITED

Applicants must audition on Saturday, April 4, 2026 in The Villages
(Alternate plans will be made if we are unable to host auditions in person)

Winners must be present to perform and receive their scholarship award on Thursday evening, April 23