



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) SHEET

### WHAT IS WIREGRASS TALENT QUEST?

Wiregrass Talent Quest Jr. is a fundraiser for the Cultural Arts Center to help the center provide financial support for programs for children and adults in the performing and visual arts, as well as continuing to provide the home for 4 arts organizations to work and perform in. The fundraiser is supported by Five Star Credit Union as one of their major non-profit organization events. As such, the event itself is a SHOW with Corporate Supporters, their families and friends, to see long with the contestant's parents, friends and school supporters. The Contestants are part of a major show that moves like clockwork to make the event exciting and enjoyable. Costumes and your performance along with the thrill of the People's Choice Award help our Corporate Supporters and donors feel the event is accomplishing it's mission: to help the Cultural Arts Center connect the arts to our community.

At no point in time does this event help you connect to an agent, another statewide or national talent show, or provide you with any performance or contractual arrangement with an agent or national show. It is local and stays local and is done to help students help their school continue to have the arts and to help the CAC connect arts to the community. But it is great for resumes and stories to tell as you grow your act!

### WHAT DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?

\$30 for single contestant, \$40 for 2-3 contestants performing together, \$50 for 4-9 contestants performing together, \$75 for group of 10 or more contestants performing together.

### WHAT ELSE IS REQUIRED OF ME TO PARTICIPATE:

**BE AT THE DRESS REHEARSAL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE ACTUAL SHOW, 6 PM AT THE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER AUDITORIUM.** Be dressed as if you were performing in the show, You will learn you entrance and exit details, "the serpentine" at the opening of the show, perform your act for sound/lighting/costuming check, receive details about dressing room, backstage details, and more. If you miss it, you could be removed from the show.

## WHAT ARE THE AWARDS GIVEN FOR THE WINNERS OF THIS EVENT?

<b>OVERALL winners:</b> 1st Place: \$500 2nd Place: \$250 3rd Place: \$150	<b>CATEGORY Awards:</b> Best in DANCE: \$100 Best in VOCAL: \$100 Best in INSTRUMENTAL: \$100 Best in MUSICAL THEATER: \$100	<b>PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD:</b> Contestant who gets the most votes by middle of the night wins \$100 + 30% of PCA dollars goes to their school to use in the arts
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## WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?

There will be 3 Judges that screen you on:

**Stage Presence, Professionalism, and Technical Ability:** overall confidence on stage, poise, ability to communicate or interact with the audience; quality, pitch, projection of voice; use of your instrument to deliver sound, emotion, and engage the audience; dance form, steps, movements are smooth and synchronized; pitch, timber, proper vocal range, projection, timing/rhythm to name a few. (40 points out of 100).

**Appearance and Costuming:** costume/dress is not risqué but modest, family oriented, professional, and appropriate to the act and contestant's genre, fits well, able to perform your piece without any problems. This is NOT your everyday clothing, but something designed to WOW the audience and judges. Prom/pageant dresses are appropriate for vocalist and instrumentalists; costuming to portray the character complete with props and maybe even set pieces that are easy to move on are appropriate for musical theater performers; competition dance costumes are acceptable for dance performers. Stand out on stage is your mantra. (25 points out of 100)

**Difficulty of Selection or Act:** your performance is smoothly disguised, any sleight of hand is unnoticeable; humor is relevant, musical difficulty for voice and instrumentalists is gauged high; voice range is broad, timing is on target for dance or musical theater; components of act are smoothly presented and has good flow; eye contact with audience and judges is strong; scene is well depicted through your actions and props; in instrumentals you have strong control over your instrument and over the song you are performing. (35 points out of 100)

## HOW DOES JUDGING WORK?

During the show a judge will give each contestant an overall comment on your performance at the end of your act. Also each judge will use the above criteria to judge you as part of the overall performance of ALL contestants and within the genre of your talent such as dance or instrumental. An overall score will be given by each judge and turned into the Adjudication Secretary who tallies all scores, divided by 3, and you have one score. The highest 3 scores overall get one of 3 awards: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Within each performance category or genre (Dance, Vocal, Instrumental, Musical Theatre) the highest score gets the Category Award for each group.

Judges' sheets are turned over to the Adjudication Secretary after each act. At the end of the night, judges and Adjudication Secretary along with members of the board who will certify the winners, go

to a room to determine scores and prepare checks for presentation. Once this had been done, judges return to the judging table and contestants are brought back out on stage to hear the awards.

Announcements will begin with the People's Choice Award, then the Category Awards, then the Overall Awards. For Photo sessions, big checks will be given to each winner, and once photos have been taken, big checks are taken back and exchanged for real checks you can take to the bank. Photos will be published in the local newspaper and placed on Facebook, Instagram, and on our website.

## **WHAT IS THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD?**

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD** is a chance for every contestant and their family to win regardless of your act. It is an award separate from the Overall Winners or the Category Award.

Votes are \$1 a vote, and you can gather votes from your family and friends while you are at school, at work, your parents are at work, at church, or your teachers. Votes can be cast online after a certain date and through the night before the show itself. Votes will be collected during a period of the show where we concentrate on getting those who have attended to vote.

If you collect cash, be sure you turn that in at the Dress Rehearsal prior to show night and we calculate it and add to what we are receiving online and the night of the show.

The WINNER of this category gets \$100 but the bigger difference is that 30% of the total dollars raised by everyone voting will go to the winner's school and the Winner gets to decide where in the school's art programs the money gets to be spent. A photo of the Principal and Winning Student will be taken and posted in the newspapers, online, and on Facebook!

It is your job to push people to vote for you. It is your job to let your school know you are performing and get them to support you since, if you win, some of the money can go to them! So don't be shy, be bold and get those votes counted for you!

## **WHY IS THERE A DRESS REHEARSAL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SHOW?**

At the dress rehearsal we sort out everything about the performance so that the show runs like clockwork, all equipment works, lights and sound are set, and there is no lag time in the show.

You will have the chance to perform onstage so we can set lights, set microphones, determine what microphone works best for your act, set sound for your equipment, make sure CD's and MP3 play, make sure you can hear your music, let you know where you are on the stage, how to come out and how to exit the stage since there is also a short interview with each contestant by the Emcee at the end of the act. We also give you a chance to practice in your costume to see that you can walk, talk, and perform in it on our stage since no 2 stages are the same. If you are in a long gown, you get to practice going downstairs to play the piano, going down steps to get from dressing rooms to

backstage; if you have props and need set up time it allows us to add to our script for the emcee so we can fill in time gaps while we set you up.

It is where we learn everything about you, your act, and you learn about us, the stage, the show, and how it all will work.

**PRIOR TO THE DRESS REHEARSAL** you will be given the line-up for the show so you will know where are in the performance line-up. This helps you know when we will pull you from the dressing/holding area to go backstage and how long the night could be. Each act is given 5-7 minutes to get on stage, perform, answer Emcee questions and exit. So, if there are 25 contestants X 5 minutes each, the show itself will be 2 hours 5 minutes plus judge's time and awards time.

On show night, there will be contestant introductions as they perform a snake and wave to the crowd, then the individual acts begin and continue with only a short break for collections of People's Choice Award Votes and then back to the show. What will take us 4 hours to go through at Dress Rehearsal will take us roughly 2.5 hours to do and get awards! But it will be your best introduction to the stage and live performance of your act before an audience. And it is fun!

**So are you ready to put your act on stage and  
show our community your talent!!!  
Then sign up and let's get started!!!**

For more detailed information contact Ann Cotton at:  
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*I am great at texting and can get back to you quicker if you email or text me (334.435.0438)*

*I am often out of the office teaching at schools for the center.*