



Las Casas Foundation's Performing Arts Scholarship Program Rules and Guidelines *Best Lead Actress/Actor in a Musical*

**Deadline to submit application: Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.
*Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.***

Now in its 12th year, Las Casas is proud to present the 2020 Performing Arts Scholarship Program. This annual program, which culminates in the Joci Awards, a one-night showcase of 25 talented performing arts students in San Antonio and the surrounding area, awards more than \$100,000 in scholarships each year. Since its inception in 2009, Las Casas has awarded more than \$1 million, making it the largest scholarship funding source of its kind in the United States.

Las Casas Performing Arts Scholarship Program also serves as a Regional Award Program (RAP) for the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA) or the Jimmy Awards, a national celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theatre. In addition to winning scholarships, two finalists (one Lead Actress and one Lead Actor) will have the opportunity to represent the region on an all-expenses paid trip to the National High School Musical Theatre Awards in New York City in June 2020.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible schools must adhere to the following:

1. To enter, a public or private high school must perform a full-length high school musical theatre production during the 2019-2020 academic year.
2. To be considered for adjudication, schools/school directors must submit Intent to Participate form to Las Casas Foundation.
3. To compete in the Best Lead Actress in a Musical or Best Lead Actor in a Musical categories, a nominee must have played a qualifying role in a full-length high school musical theatre production. A comprehensive list of eligible shows and roles can be found [HERE](#).
4. Student applicants must submit a completed application via the Las Casas Foundation website.

PARTICIPATION

Las Casas Foundation's Performing Arts Scholarship Program is open to students in grades 9-12. Students may only compete in one category. Best Lead Actress and Best Lead Actor applicants must have played a [Qualifying Role](#) in their high school musical during the 2019-2020 school year and must have their production adjudicated prior to attending the Preliminary Auditions. In order for a production to be adjudicated, teachers/directors must first submit an Intent to Participate form.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

All students must submit a complete application via the Las Casas Foundation website by *Sunday, February 9, 2020*. In addition to basic information, students are required to submit a resume, headshot, and a 2-minute topic response video. Students are also required to attend Preliminary Auditions and if selected as a finalist, a master class, all rehearsals the week leading up to the Joci Awards (Tuesday, May 12 – Saturday, May 16, 2020), and the Joci Awards on Sunday, May 17, 2020. If selected to advance to the Jimmy Awards in NYC, student must have a valid, government-issued photo ID.

TEACHER/DIRECTOR REQUIREMENTS

Students interested in applying in the Best Lead Actor and Best Lead Actress categories must first have their teachers/directors submit an Intent to Participate form in order to have their production adjudicated. The first 25 productions will be accepted. All subsequent productions will be added to the waiting list in order of receipt. Teachers/directors will be asked to provide no more than six complimentary tickets for show to be adjudicated. Teachers/directors will also be asked to submit promotional materials as needed, including videos, photos, Playbills/program, etc.

ADJUDICATION/EVALUATION PROCESS

A team of qualified judges will attend a regularly scheduled performance of an approved musical theatre production at participating high schools and will complete a detailed evaluation after each production. A rubric is provided to each adjudicator for the purpose of evaluating each qualifying role.

Judges must submit a resume to be considered for our panel and attend an orientation for training on our evaluating and scoring procedures. Judges are expected to adjudicate at least three shows. Judges are required to abide by a code of ethics and will not be assigned to adjudicate a production where there may be a conflict of interest.

Las Casas Foundation will notify teachers/directors as to which performances adjudicators will be attending. We respectfully request that students **not** be notified so that adjudicators remain anonymous and students perform the same show they would otherwise.

All students whose shows have been adjudicated and who have submitted a complete application will be invited to perform before a separate set of judges at the preliminary auditions on Saturday, March 7, 2020. The students with the highest adjudication and preliminary audition scores will advance to the Joci Awards.

Note: A nominating process is not implemented, so as long as students have played a lead role and been adjudicated, they are welcome to apply in the Best Lead Actor/Actress category any time before the deadline.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All application submissions must be completed by the student online at www.lascasasfoundation.org and include the following:

1. Completed application form
2. Recent photo/headshot (*Note: If selected as a finalist, photo will be used in Joci Awards program and intro video*)
3. Resume
4. **Link to no more than 2-minute video**, uploaded to YouTube, answering **ONE** of the following questions: (*Note: Video may be set to 'Unlisted,' but must be 'Public' in order to be viewed.*)
 - a. Why should Las Casas continue to invest in the performing arts?
 - b. Why do you want to be a part of Las Casas' scholarship program?
 - c. If you receive a scholarship from Las Casas to pursue your dreams, how will you in turn give back to the next generation of performers?

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

SCHEDULE

WORKSHOP (Optional, but Highly Recommended)

Saturday, February 15 and Saturday, February 29, 2020 (*Applicants may attend one or both*)

LOCATION TBD

Call Time: 9 a.m.

All students who successfully complete their application packets will be invited to attend a free professional workshop for audition basics, performance strategies, and material selection with individual coaching.

Please bring a clean copy of your sheet music, with 32-bar cut clearly indicated, presented in a three-ring binder. No loose sheet music or bound songbooks. If you have not memorized your music, be sure to bring an extra copy for yourself. Dress code: Casual

PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS (*Mandatory*)

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Charline McCombs Empire Theatre

226 N. St. Mary's St.

San Antonio, TX 78205

Time: An individual time will be assigned shortly after the application deadline. Applicants will be notified by email in advance.

Please come prepared with a 32-bar cut with marked sheet music. Audition piece must be from one solo number from previously adjudicated musical; no mashups please. A piano accompanist will be provided, or you may bring your own piano accompanist. You may not accompany yourself, and no acapella performances are allowed. If selected as a finalist, student will be required to submit the sheet music for their performance piece to Las Casas.

- The use of props or costumes is not allowed for preliminary auditions.
- A panel of judges will rank each preliminary audition on a point scale; audition results will be tabulated by the Foundation. Students receiving the highest combined rankings based on adjudication and preliminary audition scores advance as finalists. Results are final.
- Any attempt to contact judges, staff, or Board of Directors to influence the outcome will disqualify students from the program with a lifetime ban.
- Advancing to the Joci Awards in previous years does not guarantee advancement in subsequent years.
- Judges feedback (scores) will be available upon request.

Dress Code: Dress as you would for a professional audition. No formal wear or provocative clothing.

MASTER CLASS (*Mandatory for Finalists*)

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Call Time: 9:00 a.m.

A Master Class for finalists will provide instruction by theatre professionals.

JOCI AWARDS REHEARSAL (*Mandatory for Finalists*)

Tuesday, May 12 – Saturday, May 16, 2020

Location: TBD

Call Time: TBD

JOCI AWARDS (*Mandatory for Finalists*)

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Charline McCombs Empire Theatre

226 N. St. Mary's St.

San Antonio, TX 78205

Call Time: TBD

Note: Dress rehearsal the day of the Joci Awards is mandatory for all performers. Please be advised that failure to attend dress rehearsal may result in disqualification; final decision is at the discretion of the show's producers.

Finalists will perform, in full, the solo performed during their preliminary audition. A piano accompanist will be provided. You may not accompany yourself or provide your own accompanist. No acapella performances are allowed.

Dress Code: Costume from respective musical is highly encouraged.

OVERALL AWARD

An additional prize of \$10,000 will be awarded to one student based on their performance at the Joci Awards. The highest ranked students in each category (Vocal, Acting, Dance, Best Lead Actress in a Musical and Best Lead Actor in a Musical) will be considered for the overall award.

NHSMTA/JIMMY AWARDS PARTICIPATION

Adjudication, preliminary audition, and Joci Awards scores are all factored into an overall score. The two finalists with the highest overall score in the Best Lead Actor and Best Lead Actress categories will advance to the Jimmy Awards in New York City.

If selected to represent their region at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards:

- The student must be available and willing to participate in the National High School Theatre Awards held in New York City in June 2020.
- The student must be available and willing to participate in a preparatory master class (date and time TBD) in San Marcos, TX; transportation will be provided if necessary.
- The student must be willing to participate in news stories via print, radio, TV, etc. when available, as requested.
- The two winners will travel on an all-expenses paid trip with a chaperone. Air transportation, meals, and housing in New York City will be provided to the winners for the week of the program.
- Additional release forms and materials for the trip and the National High School Musical Theatre Awards program must be signed/completed by the student and a parent or guardian immediately following the Joci Awards.

Results from preliminary auditions, Joci Awards, and the finalists selected to advance to the Jimmy Awards are final. Any attempt to contact judges, staff, or Board of Directors to influence the outcome will disqualify students from the program with a lifetime ban.

**2020 LAS CASAS PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
BEST LEAD ACTOR/ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL**

SCORING: Superior (10); Poor (1)

ACTING

- Understanding of character's objectives
- Consistent absorption of the character
- Dialogue interpretation and believability
- Diction and projection

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

SINGING

- Vocal technique and tone; pitch and diction
- Maintains character while singing
- Understanding and execution of the musical style of the show
- Ability to express the character through the song

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

PHYSICALITY

- Movement driven by emotion
- Animation, artistry and energy
- Spatial awareness and intention
- Skill, precision and execution of appropriate choreography (if applicable)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- Relaxed, focused and in the moment
- Commitment to the scene
- Raw talent well showcased

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

TOTAL POINTS: _____

Judge's Printed Name: _____

Judge's Signature: _____