

YoungArts 2025 Application Requirements

Voice: Popular (Pop)

Please follow the requirements related to your discipline/category as closely as possible. Failure to comply with the requirements may make your application ineligible for an award.

Popular (Pop)

- Submit selections in contrasting styles, such as a mixture of up-tempo and ballads, i.e. not all blues, not all R&B, not all power ballads, etc. Musical Theater repertoire is not accepted for popular voice. Avoid songs that carry a strong imprint of the original singer.
- All audition submissions must be performed from memory, without sheet music.
- Please sing through the full form of the song (i.e., verse, chorus, bridge, verse...etc.), eliminating overly long intros and excessive repetition of choruses.

Submit a total of **three (3) individual digital video recordings in English** (preferred*) to include the following and in the following order:

- **One (1) ballad selection in any style you choose** (pop, rock, R&B, gospel, folk, country, alternative, etc.). Song should be written in 1980 or after.
- **One (1) up tempo selection in any style you choose** (pop, rock, R&B, gospel, folk, country, alternative, etc.). Song should be written in 1980 or after.
- **One (1) popular song written between 1950-1979.** Please do not include Great American Songwriting.

*If you'd like to submit selections in another language you may do so, but please limit it to no more than two (2) selections.

Note: If selected as a winner with distinction, you will be required to perform your submitted materials live for the panel during NationalYoungArts Week, in addition to pieces not part of the application.

Accompaniment Requirements

- Do NOT perform songs *a cappella*. *A cappella* pieces are not allowed.
- Live accompaniment is preferred and limited to one piano (also preferred) or guitar.
- Only a pre-recorded format without background vocals is permitted if live accompaniment is not available to you.
- The panel does not recommend that an applicant accompany themselves unless they are a strong instrumentalist. However, you may do so while keeping in mind that the vocals are being adjudicated.

Guidelines for Recording

- **Image:** Be sure your image is clear and good quality. The panel must be able to see your facial expressions to properly adjudicate your work. Microphones are allowed if the windscreen is removed, and the judges can see your face clearly.
- **Sound:** Make sure the acoustics in the room are suitable for a recording. Practice your piece in the space. Ensure the balance between piano and voice is appropriate. No sound enhancements are permitted. (i.e. reverb, autotune or Ableton).
- **Lighting:** Make sure the space is well-lit, but not too bright. Judges should be able to see your face clearly. Too little light and judges cannot see you. Too much light will leave you overexposed and judges cannot see your expressions.
- **Framing:** The camera should be set at a fixed point of view. Shooting straight on, leaving the camera in one location at a distance to frame your face and body clearly. If judges only see your face and shoulders, it's too close. If judges can see the entire stage but your facial expressions cannot be seen clearly, it's too far away.

Media Submission Requirements

- When uploading, verify that the video image is upright (not sideways or upside down) and plays smoothly.
- Save and name your files individually with their song titles.
- Upload each selection as a separate video file.
- Do not put your name or any identifying information in or on your media submission.
- Please do not edit within a piece.

Note: You are welcome to submit materials that have been part of other applications, competitions, or projects. YoungArts does not own any works submitted to its competition, however if your work has been submitted to other competitions, you are responsible for getting permission to submit to YoungArts, if necessary.