



*VSA Florida 2017-2018 Young Soloist State Finalists  
Matthew Cravener from Leon Count & Stephanie Slagle from Hernando County*

## **12th Annual VSA Florida Young Soloists Program**

Each year, a select number of outstanding young musicians with disabilities, ages 14-25, from around the world receive the VSA International Young Soloists Award. These emerging musicians win a \$2,000 prize and the opportunity to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Started by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith in 1984, the program, open to musicians of any instrument or genre, has provided opportunities for hundreds of emerging young musicians with disabilities.

### ***VSA FLORIDA PROGRAM***

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VSA Florida is proud to announce their 12<sup>th</sup> annual statewide program in preparation for the International Young Soloist Program. Two or three finalists are selected by a panel of judges and given the opportunity to perform at a professional venue to be determined each year. These finalists, as well as all other applicants, will represent Florida by having their musical entries sent to Washington, DC to compete in the VSA International Young Soloist Program.

Applications for the 2018-2019 VSA Florida Young Soloists Competition will be accepted online. For more information on the competition and for the online application, visit <http://www.vsafl.org/programs/young-soloist>. **Application deadline is Monday, January 14, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**To be eligible to enter the VSA Florida Young Soloists Competition you must meet all three of the following criteria:**

- 1. Be a musician with a disability.**
  - As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act, a disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity. Major life activities include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, and communicating; additionally major life activities include the operation of a major bodily function, including but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.
- 2. Be age 14-25.** Applicants must not be younger than 14 or older than 25 at the time of the application deadline. All members of an ensemble must meet the age requirement in order to be eligible.
- 3. Have never won the VSA International Young Soloists Competition.** Applicants are welcome to re-apply until they win or age out of the competition.

**The VSA Florida Young Soloists Competition is open to:**

- Soloists (instrumental or vocal)
- Ensembles\* (instrumental or vocal) of two (2) to five (5) members, such as rock bands, chamber ensembles, and choral groups.
- Musicians of all genres, including—but not limited to-- classical, jazz, hip-hop/rap, rock/alt rock, pop, indie, bluegrass, folk, country, R&B/blues, Latin, and World.
- Florida Residents: U.S. citizens and legal residents of the U.S.

*\*For ensembles to be eligible, at least one musician must have a disability, and all members must be between the ages of 14-25.*

## **ADDITIONAL COMPETITION INFORMATION**

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### ***Selection Process and Adjudication Criteria***

A panel of knowledgeable and prominent judges comprised of music professionals and educators will assist with the selection process. Last year judges included three professional musicians that were also professors of music from the School of Music at the University of South Florida. Panel members will evaluate each audition recording in the areas of technique, tone, rhythm, interpretation and intonation (if applicable).

### ***Award & Performance Opportunities***

Recipients of the VSA Florida Young Soloists Award will receive a \$50 gift card for individuals, \$100 for ensembles and will be featured in a concert performance to be determined. VSA Florida will continue to promote winners and offer performance opportunities as they become available.

## **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

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- **Complete the online application form** at <http://www.vsaf.org/programs/young-soloist>.
  - **NOTE:** to request application materials in a different format, email [wfinklea@usf.edu](mailto:wfinklea@usf.edu).
- **Provide a narrative statement (up to 250 words)** in the provided text box or as an audio or video clip. The narrative should include biographical information (i.e. educational background, past solo or ensemble experience, musical goals) and the reasons you feel you or your ensemble should be selected as a VSA International Young Soloist winner.
- **Attach media files of three (3) musical selections** (audio or video).
  - **Please read the following media file submission guidelines carefully:**
  - **NOTE:** If you have difficulty uploading your media files, email [wfinklea@usf.edu](mailto:wfinklea@usf.edu).
  - Where indicated on the application form, **please list the title and composer** of each submission.
  - Please note that while the quality of your media submissions should be high, it is not necessary to have your audio or video professionally recorded. ***The music and artistry should be easily heard on your recording.***
  - Each uploaded file should be a recording of one piece only (multiple movements for a piece are fine).
  - Each recording should be less than 10 minutes long.
  - Please upload your most proficient piece into Selection #1.
  - Selected pieces should represent your current musicianship and repertoire. Therefore recordings should be relatively recent (no more than 1-2 years old).

- Keep in mind, if chosen on the international level, winners will not be permitted to use recorded music in their performance.
  - Applicants may only apply on one instrument. Even if you are talented on multiple instruments, please pick the one on which you feel you are most proficient and send us recordings showcasing that instrument only.
  - The application accepts files in the following formats: Audio (*MP3*) and Video (*MP4 or MOV*)
  - **Video files are suggested**, but not required.
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- **Application materials should be submitted no later than *January 14, 2019 at 11:59 PM EST***