The SHSU Song & Aria Competition is held to promote student singer and collaborative pianist achievement in the performance of song literature and to promote degree studies at SHSU that encompass vocal and collaborative piano arts.

Competition is between singer/pianist teams.

**Initial Qualifications for Performer Teams**
- Selected SHSU majors in music (see below), undergraduate and graduate, whose applied areas are voice or piano
- Must have been a music major for at least one semester prior to the semester of the contest
- Must be currently enrolled in private study and have been enrolled at least one semester prior to the semester of the contest

**Scholarship Award Eligibility and Information**—IMPORTANT
- All contestants entering the Art Song contest must apply for the Art Song Scholarship in the Scholarship 4Kats program **prior to the competition**.
- Once the winners are selected, the scholarship awards are given through the SHSU scholarship system.
- If a student has not applied for the Art Song Scholarship in Scholarship 4Kats **PRIOR** to the competition, the student cannot be awarded the scholarship.
- If a winner/scholarship recipient is a graduating senior in the semester the contest is held, the student can still receive the scholarship. As with other awarded scholarships, it may apply to any outstanding balance on a student’s account, or it may be issued in a refund. Questions in this regard should be submitted to the SHSU Financial Aid Office.
- Scholarship awards, once processed, become the province of the student and the SHSU Financial Aid office. Any questions regarding disbursement, timeline, etc. must be submitted to Financial Aid.
- The Scholarship 4Kats site is [http://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/scholarships/](http://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/scholarships/)

**Dates and Deadlines**
- The competition will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2018 in the Gaertner Performing Arts Center, Sam Houston State University
- All Application materials are submitted by email to Wesley.Lawrence@shsu.edu
- Deadline for submission of all materials is Thursdays, **Feb. 15, 2018**, by 5 p.m.
- All repertoire changes must be submitted to Dr. Lawrence by Thursday, March 15, 2018 by 5 p.m.
- Faculty Signature Sheet (see Contest Procedures and Rules) must be turned in to Dr. Lawrence by Friday, April 6, 2018 by 5 p.m.
Selection Procedures and Guidelines

- Students must be recommended by their respective voice or piano instructors.
- The recommendations will be for particular teams.
- The number of teams in which a pianist may compete is at the discretion of the applied piano teacher.
- Teams will be formed by student initiative with faculty serving in an advisory and recommendatory capacity.
- The number of team entries is limited to eighteen. If more than eighteen teams receive faculty recommendations, a panel consisting of the Vocal Area Coordinator, Piano Area Coordinator, Opera Director, Director of Choirs, and Director of the School of Music will make the final selections. In this event, student classification (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.) will be a factor that is considered.

Contest Procedures and Rules

- Participants will prepare three (3) art songs, which includes one (1) foreign language art song, one English art song, and one language of your choice. An aria may be substituted for one of the art songs, however English and at least one foreign language must be represented.
- All selections must be memorized, including any arias from oratorios.
- The selections, together, will have no more than fifteen minutes duration.
- Faculty Signature Sheet: In order to be eligible to participate in the Art Song Competition, all collaborative teams must rehearse a minimum of six (6) times with faculty. The faculty member may be the voice teacher, piano teacher, or coach, and combinations of faculty are encouraged. These faculty-mentored rehearsals are in addition to rehearsals between the singer-pianist. The six rehearsals must be at least 25 minutes long, and the Faculty Signature Sheet must be signed by the faculty member present.
- A preliminary round will consist of seven-minute auditions. The performing team will choose the first selection. The judges may or may not listen to the entire selection, depending upon their wish to hear other material or upon other considerations. Remaining selections to be performed, or excerpts thereof, will be determined by the judges.
- From the preliminary round, five finalist teams will be selected.
- During a finals concert, each finalist team will present all three of their prepared selections. Winners will be chosen and scholarship awards presented at the conclusion of this concert.
- The Art Song Contest is an amateur, student competition for academic scholarships and for performance experience. As such, it is not permitted for any participant to provide payment or to receive payment, from one another or from anyone else, for participation in the event. Any violation of this rule results in disqualification from the event.
- Dress for the final concert performers will be formal.

Scholarship Awards for each member of the teams are
• First Place: One thousand dollar scholarship award ($1,000) for studies at SHSU
• Second Place: Seven hundred and fifty dollar scholarship award ($750) for studies at SHSU
• Third Place: Five hundred dollar scholarship award ($500) for studies at SHSU

Judges
• Judging will be based upon comprehensive performance artistry.
• Decisions of the judges are theirs alone and are final.
• 2018 Judges
  o Chuck Chandler
    ▪ Director of Undergraduate Vocal Pedagogy and Assistant Professor of Voice, Florida State University.
    ▪ http://www.music.fsu.edu/person/chuck-chandler
  o Daniel Hunter-Holly
    ▪ Associate Professor of Voice, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.
    ▪ http://www.utrgv.edu/music/people/faculty/index.htm
  o Bethany Self
    ▪ Artist Teacher of Opera Studies, Shepherd School of Music, at Rice University.
    ▪ https://music.rice.edu/faculty/bethany-self