



St. Louis Teen Talent COMPETITION



St. Louis Teen Talent Competition 2022

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ST. LOUIS Teen Talent COMPETITION

APRIL 8, 2023
FINAL COMPETITION AT
THE FABULOUS FOX



Welcome to the 13th Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition!

This year 112 acts with 126 students registered for the Preliminary round, representing 57 bi-state high schools and performing arts organizations plus homeschoolers. The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation is excited to present 14 talented finalists performing on the stage of the Fabulous Fox competing for scholarships, prizes, awards, and future performance opportunities. Yes! St. Louis does have talent!

We hope to see you next year at the Fabulous Fox for the 14th Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition!

Mary Strauss
Board President

Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation

Mission Statement:

The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation fosters, promotes, and encourages young people in the St. Louis region to discover and participate in the joy and wonder of live performances.

Vision:

For young people in the St. Louis area to have more opportunities to create, perform, and appreciate live performances.

The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation's programming includes:

- ***St. Louis Teen Talent Competition*** provides scholarships, prizes, and performance opportunities for emerging talent.
- ***Kids' Night at The Fabulous Fox*** introduces young audiences to live theatre.
- ***Broadway Master Classes*** encourage young performers to learn and refine their craft from touring professionals.
- Special Projects ignite imagination for expression through story, sound, image, and movement.
- ***Educational Encores*** are an interactive encounter with touring Broadway cast and crew members providing the opportunity for young people to enhance their live theatre experience.
- ***St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards*** is a collaboration between Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation, The Muny and The Fabulous Fox. This program is designed to celebrate outstanding achievement in high school musical theatre and is modeled on The Tony Awards®.

Board of Directors

Dr. Kenneth Dobbins
Danielle Durban
Missy Heinemann

Laurie Lock
Donna Rogers-Beard
Wayne Salomon

Mary Strauss
Pat Vogelsang
Kelley Weber



Presents

13th Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition

Saturday, April 8, 2023

Final Competition

Fabulous Fox Theatre

Mary Strauss

St. Louis Teen Talent Competition Creator

Pat Vogelsang
Producer SLTC

Cait VanDeWiele
*FoxPACF Executive Director
Producer SLTC*

Colin O'Brien
Producer SLTC

Lee Anne Mathews
Writer / Director

Yvonne Meyer Hare
Choreographer

Steve Neale
*Musical Director
and Arranger*

Ben Nordstrom
Host

John Wolf
*Fox Theatre VP
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Program Photographer

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*Fox Production
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Lifetime Media
Videographer

Chris Kilcullen
Graphic Designer

Eileen Engel
Costumer

Megan Cahill
Production Stage Manager

Marla Stoker
PR

Nathan Wright
Assistant Stage Manager

The Fabulous Fox Band

Dustin Shrum , Trumpet	Kelly Austermann , Tenor Saxophone	Andy Hainz , Bass
Tom Vincent , Trombone	Mike Buerk , Baritone Saxophone	Kevin Gianino , Drums
Mike Karpowicz , Alto Saxophone	Steve Schenkel , Guitar	Nick Valdez , Piano

St. Louis Teen Talent Competition Planning Committee:
Mary Strauss, Cait VanDeWiele, Pat Vogelsang

Preliminary & Semi-final Competitions Personnel

Stage Manager: Megan Cahill

Accompanist: Steve Neale

Venue Manager: Pat Vogelsang

Volunteers: Cathy Donahue, Derek Donahue, Phyllis Harding, Bob Harsh, Red Jesse, Michael Jesse, Kevin Johnson, Donald Jones, Marilyn Kenton, Brendan Lally, Pat Lally, Joan Lerch, Larry Mayhew, Colleen Mulholland, Dianne Rogers, Rick Ruderer, Dave Stephens, Charles Tuschling, Raven Vaughn, Tiny Vaughn, Carl Vogt, Izzy Williams, Kim Wilson

The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation thanks Robert J. Minkler, Sr. (Partner Emeritus), Michael J. Evans and Jane Maddox from the independent accounting firm of Anders CPAs + Advisors for overseeing the St. Louis Teen Talent Competition balloting.



A brief history of the St. Louis Teen Talent Competition

Mary Strauss, co-owner of the Fox Theatre, wanted to give the opportunity for St. Louis' talented teens to perform on the Fox stage. In 1985, long before "America's Got Talent" and "American Idol" Mary created the St. Louis Teen Talent Showcase to annually recognize and encourage talented teenagers in the performing arts to compete, win prizes and scholarships, and performance opportunities. The competition selection process and final event on the Fox stage gave participants the anticipation, hard work, and thrill of a Broadway show! Fast forward 31 years when Mary Strauss became President of the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation's board, she felt the time was right to revive Teen Talent and in 2011 produced their 1st Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition at the Fox Theatre.

Prior St. Louis Teen Talent Competition Winners



2011 - Micah Manaitai Garrido, Crossroads College Preparatory School, performing "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" on the ukulele.



2012 - DaJaun Johnson, Marquis Cooper & Virgil Fisher, Central Visual & Performing Arts High School, performing an a cappella tap dance as "The Cotton Club."



2013 - "Two Mellow Cello Fellows" *Christopher Halen*, Whitfield School & *Grant Riew*, John Burroughs School, performing an original arrangement of classical/pop music they entitled "Pachelbel Pop."



2014 - "Daring Donesha" Buhr, Fresh Start North Academy & Circus Harmony, performing an original hula hoop routine.



2015 - Tiala Taylor, Fort Zumwalt North High School, contemporary dancer performing her own original choreography titled "A Mother's Love."



2016 - Royce Martin, Grand Center Arts Academy, pianist performing his original composition "Safari Nzuri" (Swahili for "A Beautiful Journey").



2017 - Christina Jones, O'Fallon Township High School, singer, performing "I Have Nothing."



2018 - Nicaya Wiley, Kirkwood High School, dancer, performing a contemporary dance to "This Bitter Earth."



2019 - Joanna Serenko, Kirkwood High School, singer, performing "Valerie."



2020 - DemBari Taneh, Kirkwood High School, dancer, performing to "Got it Good"



2021 - Troy Staten, Jr., McCluer High School, singer, performing "Not My Father's Son."



2022 - Co-winners
Aubory Bugg, Homeschool, singer, performing "Dancing in the Street"
Trifecta: Eliot Bailey, Ethan Ryan & Dennis Bailey, Homeschool, performing an original circus acrobatics act

And the tradition continues...



PRE-SHOW

Dave Stephens on the "Mighty Wurlitzer" performing a medley of Broadway show tunes

Opening Act

Rhythm

Choreography & Staging by **Yvonne Meyer Hare** and **Jeana Smith**

Featuring **The Fabulous Fox Tellerettes**.

Lexie Antolik
Isabella Behrle
Hannah Grace Burns
Ava Castro
Aleka Detter
Izzy Gates
Natalie Girardi
Anna Lee Hehmeyer

Lacey Lalumondeire
Mia Leon
Sadie Loless
Addison Lynch
Mia Manfrede
Ellen Mayer
Ella Moore
Haley Peters

Aevri Sievert
Lilly Smith
Katie Beth Terrill
Arika Thomas
Allie Villhard
Isabelle Wilder
Adriana Wilson

ACT

2

Cortland English

Performing *My Petersburg*
From "Anastasia"
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Junior, O'Fallon Township High School, Age 17

In addition to High School, Cortland has received training with Jamie Eros at Stages Academy. Cortland has had a passion for singing and acting since he was very young and watching his older brother perform (also a Teen Talent finalist) has solidified his drive to perform. After high school Cortland wants to attend college to become a dentist and follows his dream of singing and acting.

ACT

3

Anna Layher

Handbalancing
Performing *You Oughta Know*
Music by Duomo and Tomás Peire-Serrate

Senior, Nerinx Hall High School, Age 18

Anna has been a student at Circus Harmony for 12 years and is a member of their St. Louis Arches performance troupe. She performs regularly with them at City Museum, with Circus Flora, and at numerous venues throughout St. Louis and beyond! Her circus skills also include aerials, contortion, juggling, and partner acrobatics. After high school Anna plans to attend circus college and become a professional circus arts performer.

ACT
1

Yrwin Batan

Performing his original composition
For God's Sake

Junior, Saint Louis Priory School, Age 16

Yrwin has been receiving piano lessons for the past six years from four instructors, most recently Garik Pedersen. He has only been composing for a little over a year. After high school Yrwin plans to attend college to study computer science to become a software engineer, and as time permits, continue to pursue his music endeavors.



ACT
4

Kyla Gerhardt

Performing *Home*
From "The Wiz"
Music & Lyrics

Senior, Granite City High School, Age 18

Kyla has been singing and performing for the past 16 years and has received voice training from Maria Ellis. Singing has always been her passion. Kyla has been accepted into 21 colleges and plans to double major in Early Childhood Development and Music.



ACT
6

Rayquan Strickland

Performing his original composition *Time for Change*
Music & Lyrics by Rayquan Strickland

Senior, Central Visual & Performing Arts High School,
Age 18

Rayquan is a singer, songwriter, musician and minister who has received piano lessons from Jazz St. Louis. *Time for Change* was written during the pandemic after losing a cousin to gun violence. He was brought up in the church where from a young age he sang in the choir and he has been playing piano for six years. Rayquan has been accepted into Morehouse College where he plans to pursue a doctoral degree while majoring in both Music and Religion.



ACT
5

Avery Payne

Performing to *The Mad Lovers Suite: Ground. Aire V*
Music & Lyrics by Théotime Langlois de Swarte &
Thomas Dunford
Choreographed by Amy Gammon

Sophomore, Orchard Farm High School, Age 16

Avery has been dancing since she was two years old and has received training from Tracy and Debbie Davenport and Amy Gammon at the Performing Arts Center. She also dances with Dance Company of St. Charles as a First Company Concert dancer. After high school Avery wants to continue her dancing career with the ambition of becoming a Radio City Rockette!



ACT
7

Ava Hettenhausen

Performing *The Greatest Star*
From "Funny Girl"
Music by Julie Styne
Lyrics by Bob Merrill

Junior, O'Fallon Township High School,
Age 16

Ava loves musical theatre and has performed in many shows, most recently as "Belle" in her high school's production of "Beauty and the Beast." She was nominated for Best Actress at the St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards. She trains with Kim Stamps in Edwardsville and with Marc Schapman and Joe Welch at SIUE through Opera Theatre of St. Louis' Artists in Training Program. After high school Ava plans to continue studying music, performing arts, along with psychology and music therapy.



INTERMISSION



Opening of Act Two Conga

Choreography & Staging by *Yvonne Meyer Hare*

Featuring *The Fabulous Fox Tellerettes*.

Lexie Antolik	Addison Lynch	Lilly Smith
Ava Castro	Mia Manfrede	Arika Thomas
Izzy Gates	Ellen Mayer	Allie Villhard
Natalie Girardi	Ella Moore	Isabelle Wilder
Anna Lee Hehmeyer	Haley Peters	
Sadie Loless	Aevri Sievert	

Performing *Feeling Good*
Music & Lyrics by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse

All Attend Webster Groves High School

Miles Coles, Junior, Age 16
Beckett Mitchell, Junior, Age 17
Zach Andrews, Senior, Age 17
Audrey Brenner, Sophomore, Age 16
Katherine Teeter, Senior, Age 17
Evan Christman, Senior, Age 18

All under the direction of Kevin Cole at WGHS but our combo is unassociated.

Miles (keyboard) has been taking piano lessons from Carolbeth True for eleven years and jazz piano for four years. For the past six years he has also taken jazz trombone lessons from Michael Dease. After high school Miles wants to attend a prestigious music school to play jazz professionally and wants to make an impact on the world musically.

Beckett (drums) has been playing drums for five years and receives lessons from Kevin Gianino. After high school he plans to attend college.

Zach (trombone) has been playing trombone for seven years and has taken lessons with Wayne Coniglio and Michael Dease. After high school Zach plans to attend a university to study music performance and hopes to play professionally.

Audrey (bass) has been playing bass for six years and takes double bass lessons at Dave's Guitar Loft and is in multiple jazz bands. After high school she plans to go to a college with a good music program and become a teacher and a performing musician.

Katherine (vocals) is a self-taught vocalist and guitarist and currently receives jazz training in high school. She plans to attend college in New York City or Los Angeles to study music business.

Evan (alto saxophone) is self-taught and has played multiple instruments since he was three years old. He has been particularly interested in jazz for the past three years. Evan would like to attend a music school in New York to attain a PhD in music and then teach at a conservatory.



Noah Van Ess

Performing *Out There*
From "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"
Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Senior, Lindbergh High School, Age 17

Noah has been an active member within the St. Louis youth theater community since he was a small child. He has participated in a wide variety of productions in St. Louis such as "The Sound of Music" and "Sweeney Todd" (MUNY); "Bright Star" (Visitation Academy); and "Titanic: The Musical" (GCPA). He studies voice and piano with Dr. Philip A. Woodmore and plans to attend college to pursue musical theatre and become a professional actor.

Cindy Yan

ACT
10

Performing *Toccata on a Theme* from "The Old Maid and the Thief"

Junior, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, Age 16

Cindy has played piano for 11 years and studied with Laura Schindler, making her orchestral debut at age 10 with the University City Symphony Orchestra as the youngest winner of the William Schatzkamer Concerto Competition. Cindy is a multi-award-winning pianist and won 1st place in the New York Steinway Competition in 2018 and is a six-time winner in the annual Missouri Music Teachers Association State Competition in solo piano. She has performed with numerous regional orchestras and volunteers as a pianist with the Ladue Strolling Strings. She plans to attend college and pursue a pre-med track while minoring in music.



Saisha Bhutani

Performing a Traditional Indian Dance
The Rhythm of Radiance
Accompanied by Traditional Indian Music

Junior, Clayton High School, Age 17

Since the age of five, Saisha has been training in Bharatanatyam and recently completed her Bharatanatyam and Arangetram at the school of Dances of India, one of the oldest Indian classical dance companies in the US. In 2018 she was one of six dancers to perform in a short musical film *Ganga River Eternal* which has been screened nationally and internationally. After high school Saisha plans to attend college majoring in cognitive science with a minor in dance, hopefully combining the two into an artistic therapy such as music and dance therapy.

ACT
11



ACT
12

Kyleigh McCourt

"It's My Life...Baton Twirling!"
Choreographed by Emily Wicks Hawkins
All songs performed by Bon Jovi

Junior, Mehlville High School, Age 17

- *Blame It On The Love Of Rock & Roll* by Jon Bon Jovi, Richie Sambora
- *It's My Life* by Jon Bon Jovi, Max Martin, Richie Sambora
- *Livin' On a Prayer and You Give Love A Bad Name* by Desmond Child, Jon Bon Jovi, Richie Sambora
- *Runaway* by George Nick Karakoglu, Jon Bon Jovi

Kyleigh started twirling at the age of eight and spent the next nine years falling in love with the sport. She trains at Saint Louis Performance Academy, under the direction of Emily Hawkins and won the 2022 show twirl title at the state, regional, and national level with the routine you will see tonight. After high school Kyleigh plans to attend college for a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Clinical Psychology.

ACT
13

Ariana Kroeger

Performing *Woman*
From "The Pirate Queen"
Composed by Claude-Michel Schönberg
Lyrics by Alain Boublil, Richard Maltby, Jr., John Dempsey

Senior, Clayton High School, Age 17

Ariana has been performing since she was nine years old and trains at Gateway Center for Performing Arts, studying voice with Katie Kopff. After high school Ariana plans to attend college for a BFA in Musical Theatre and hopes to become a professional musical theatre performer.



ACT

14

VOTING FOR THE AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD



Drum Warriors Ensemble

Corrin Ward, Junior, Carnahan High School, Age 17

Ismail Botchway, Junior, Collegiate School of Medicine and Bio Science, Age 17

Solomon Ahmed, Junior, Grand Center Arts Academy, Age 17

Addison Jones, Sophomore, Clayton High School, Age 15

Solomon and Corrin have been drumming for six years and Ismail and Addison have both been drumming for eleven years. This team of young men has been friends since meeting in summer camp more than ten years ago. Training under Vivian Watt, Edward Brown, the late Baba Dhati Kennedy and supported by Miranda Walker Jones and the Little Bit Foundation, DWE has performed for Festival of Nations, International Festival of Nations, Black Dance USA, Muny Community Presentations, African Arts Festival, Maplewood Arts Fair and more. They are each an entrepreneur in their own rights and look forward to bright futures in their chosen genres from business, arts, technology and sports. The young men would like to dedicate their performance in memory of Baba Gary "Dhati" Kennedy.

Special Appearances



Trifecta

Eliot Bailey, Ethan Ryan, Dennis Bailey
Performing to *The Final Countdown*
by Europe
Music by Joey Tempest



Aubory Bugg

Performing *The Joke*
Written by Brandi Carlile, Phil
Hanseroth, Tim Hanseroth, & Dave
Cobb

Cait VanDeWiele

Executive Director - Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation

Amy Shaw

President and CEO - Nine PBS





SPECIAL TRIBUTES TO

Marlene Birkman, PhD. and
Mary Strauss

Special Awards

Keep Art Happening Scholarship

underwritten by Arts & Education Council of St. Louis

Poppy Award

underwritten by the Gupta-Trampe family to encourage the winner to continue their artistic journey delivering joy and happiness to others

The Voss Family Originality Award

underwritten by Tom & Carol Voss for the best original work in composition, writing, arranging or choreography

The Berges Classical Performance Award

underwritten by the Berges family

The Barrett Barrera Projects Dance Award

underwritten by Susan Barrett

"I" Award

underwritten by Terry & Sally Schnuck for the most Imaginative, Inspired, and Inventive act

The Terry Lynford Classical Music Scholarship

underwritten by Terry Lynford

The Kranzberg Vocal Performance Award

underwritten by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

The Musical Theatre Scholarship Award

underwritten by Donald Jones & Pat Vogelsang

Saint Louis Recording Club Prize

underwritten by Carl Nappa

MVP - Most Valuable Performer Award

underwritten by the Board of the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation

The Audience Choice Award

underwritten by Odile and Fred Tompkins

3rd Place Award underwritten by Sally Johnston

2nd Place Award underwritten by John Russell

1st Place Award underwritten by Mary Strauss

Additional Prizes

Bach Society of Saint Louis

Olivia Knopf (semi-finalist) has been awarded the opportunity to engage in a side-by-side chorus rehearsal, participation in a vocal master class, and/or the opportunity to perform in a Bach Society of Saint Louis Choral Concert.

The Big Muddy Dance Company

Kaelyn Young (semi-finalist) has been awarded a Big Muddy Summer Intensive Scholarship.

The Cabaret Project of St. Louis

Cortland English (finalist) has been selected to receive a scholarship to The Cabaret Project's "Sing Center Stage" summer program.

Capes Coaching

Kyla Gerhardt (finalist) has been awarded a gift certificate for an "Artists in Action" digital career planning program.

COCA

Sofia Call, Khamani Collins, Priya Gangasingh, Olivia Knopf, Shelby Peters, Jillian Ritter, Grace Schwiegel, Zacchaeus Williams, and Kaelyn Young have each been awarded gift certificates for class tuition.

Chamber Music Society of St. Louis

Cindy Yan (finalist) has been selected for the opportunity to perform as part of a Chamber Music Society of St. Louis concert during the upcoming season.

Circus Harmony

Kyla Gerhardt (finalist) has been awarded a scholarship for four private juggling lessons or four private aerialist lessons.

DaySpring Arts & Education

Sophie Wright (semi-finalist) has been awarded a gift certificate for class tuition.

Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation

Cortland English (finalist) will receive a scholarship to attend the Acting Master Class with Wayne Salomon, produced by the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation as part of the Broadway Master Class series.

Gateway Center for Performing Arts

Molly Sallaberry (semi-finalist) has been awarded a gift certificate for class tuition.

Additional Prizes

The Muny

Every finalist will receive a certificate for tickets to a 2022 Muny production.

STL Rhythm Collaborative

Ariana Kroeger (finalist) has been awarded a place in the STL Rhythm Fest, a 2-day workshop packed with classes taught by world-renowned tap dance artists.

Saint Louis Ballet

Avery Payne (finalist) has been awarded a scholarship for Saint Louis Ballet's summer intensive program for advanced level dancers.

St. Charles Community College

Yrwin Batan (finalist) has been awarded a scholarship to St. Charles Community College Jazz Camp.

St. Louis Theatre Organ Society

The Mighty Wurlitzer Award for Keyboard Talent

Yrwin Batan (finalist) has been awarded a cash prize.

STAGES Performing Arts Academy

Semi-finalists **Beatrice Bussen, Anna Clark, Brea Johnson, Lexie Lloyd, Kate Marshall, and Zacchaeus Williams** have been awarded scholarships to be applied to tuition/private lessons/attending class(es). Each recipient will also receive a voucher for the STAGES Collection.



STAY INFORMED

Look for some of the top finalist acts to perform at various St. Louis locations this spring and summer. Updates about upcoming appearances will be posted on social media sites.

Scan the QR code for more information and to pre-register for the 2024 St. Louis Teen Talent Competition

Production Team

Lee Anne Mathews, Writer/Director. As an Equity actor, Lee Anne has performed in venues around the globe. She landed in St. Louis in 2006 to perform at Westport Playhouse and has worked for the Muny, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, New Jewish Theatre, Upstream Theatre, and many more. Lee Anne was the Director of Theatre at Crossroads College Preparatory School (2011-2018), and has worked for COCA for 15 years as a theatre, improv, and leadership educator. She is a public speaking and leadership coach, and has worked with TEDx St. Louis for nearly a decade. Lee Anne currently serves as the Artistic Director at the Westport Playhouse. www.leeannemathews.com, www.presentyourself.me



Yvonne Meyer Hare, Choreographer, grew up in St. Louis, training with Gerri Stretz and the St. Louis Youth Ballet. Professionally, she began at the St. Louis Muny Opera, performing in over 35 shows, assisting some of Broadway's finest choreographers and directors. She made her Broadway debut in *A Christmas Carol* under the tutelage of choreographer Susan Stroman. Choreography credits include: Hilton Head Summer Playhouse, St. Louis Fox Theater/Fox Tellerettes, St. Louis Variety Club Telethon, Rhythm Revue Universal Studio Show and Walt Disney Show, and the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. She is currently Owner/Director of the Gerri Stretz and Yvonne Meyer Professional Dance Center.



Steve Neale is an award-winning composer, conductor and pianist. With a degree in Film Scoring from the Berklee College of Music, Steve has written and produced music for film, video games, and live theater around the country. Some of his most recent work has been for KMOX here in St. Louis and WTMJ in Milwaukee, WI. In addition to composing Steve directs the renowned choir at St. Margaret of Scotland parish, is adjunct faculty in the Leigh Gerdine Conservatory of Music at Webster University, and sings bass in the a cappella celtic group, The Wee Heavies, and has music directed and done sound design for many local and national theater companies.



Ben Nordstrom, Host, is a professional actor whose stage credits include roles in musicals and plays, Off-Broadway and at regional theatres across the country. He has been seen or heard in commercials and voice-overs for Explore St. Louis, St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis Blues, McDonald's, and Schnucks. Ben is the recipient of a St. Louis Theatre Circle Award and two Kevin Kline Awards. Ben currently serves as the Development Director at The St. Louis Children's Choirs whose mission is "shaping young lives through musical excellence."



Judges



Ken Page is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Honor from The St. Louis Arts Council. He is widely known as the voice of Mr. Oogie Boogie in the classic Disney/Tim Burton film *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and has performed the score live in cities in the US and UK. Films include *Dreamgirls*, *Torch Song Trilogy*, etc. Television appearances are numerous. Ken made his Broadway debut in the all-black revival of *Guys and Dolls* (Theatre World Award) Other credits include the Broadway Musicals *Cats* (Original Cast & Video/Film Casts - Old Deuteronomy, Grammy Award), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Paris, Emmy Award-Winning NBC TV Special, Drama Desk Award-Best Actor, Grammy Award), *The Wiz* (Lion). Ken recently received the NYC MAC Awards Lifetime Achievement Honor in Cabaret.



Gen Horiuchi, originally from Tokyo, Japan, moved to the United States after winning Prix de Lausanne, the international ballet competition in Switzerland in 1980, and receiving a scholarship to study at the School of American Ballet. In 1982, the great George Balanchine invited him to join the New York City Ballet, where he became a principal dancer in 1989. Gen Horiuchi's Broadway musical credits include Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance* and the role of Mr. Mistoffeles in *Cats*. He went on to perform that role in London's production of *Cats* and became the first performer to play the lead on both Broadway and in the West End in 1998. In 2016, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology awarded Horiuchi the prestigious Art Encouragement Prize in recognition of his work with the company.



Taylor Louderman is a Missouri native and 2018 Tony Award Nominee for originating the role of Regina George in *Tina Fey's Mean Girls* on Broadway. Other Broadway credits include the original Campbell Davis in *Bring it On: The Musical* and Lauren in *Kinky Boots* as well as its Muny debut in 2019. Television credits: Tami on NBC's *Kenan*, Malindaz on *Evil* (CBS), Wendy on *Peter Pan Live* (NBC) as well as the voice of 'Blair' on *Sunny Day* (NickJr), *The Loudest Voice* (Showtime), *The Good Fight* (CBS), and *High Maintenance* (HBO). Taylor founded the non-profit WRITE OUT LOUD Project: a songwriting competition for new Musical Theatre writers and co-wrote PITCH IN: a one-act youth musical.



Carl Nappa is a Producer, Engineer, and Educator whose career has spanned more than 25 years. He currently serves as Vice President for the Memphis Chapter of the Recording Academy (The Grammy Awards). Carl started his career in his hometown of Boston before moving to New York City to engineer at the Hit Factory Recording Studios. He has worked either as an Engineer, Mixer, or Producer on records totaling over 85.5 million sold in the US alone. Carl has worked with Nelly for 10+ years and came to St. Louis to serve as Executive Director of Vatterott College ex'treme Institute. Carl owns and operates The Saint Louis Recording Club, a recording studio in St. Louis, and is teaching at St. Louis' Webster University as a Visiting Artist in Residence and Program Chair for the Audio Aesthetics and Technology Program. www.carlnappa.com



Antonio Douthit-Boyd, after having a fulfilling dance career in New York City, was named Co-Artistic Director of Dance at COCA, where he had begun his dance training at the age of 16. Antonio joined the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company in 2000 and rose to Soloist in 2003. He joined the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 2004, where he danced as a principal artist with the company for 12 years, performing for President and First Lady Michelle Obama, Queen Elizabeth II, and Michael Jackson. Antonio is an ABT® Certified Teacher and is also on faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, teaching ballet as a Distinguished Performing Artist.



Audrey Kwong serves as the Director of Orchestra Operations for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra where she oversees a wide portfolio including the orchestra's electronic media projects, Opera Theatre of St. Louis collaborations, *Live at Powell Hall* series, touring, and other special projects. Audrey holds a master's in Arts Management and a bachelor's degree in violin performance. She has performed with a wide variety of artists over her career including appearing in *The Soloist* with Jamie Foxx, and in St. Louis can be found playing violin with folk-rock band, Boxcar.

Judges – Preliminary Round

Gary Bell, Director, Stray Dog Theatre
Sarah Bernard, Musician, STL TV Host
Ron Gibbs, Professional Actor, Washington University
Carmen Guynn, Dancer, Educator
Kyra Hannah, Music & Video Producer
Mark Kent, Opera Singer, Educator
Andrew Kuhlman, Educator, Producer, Stages St. Louis
Angelina McLaughlin-Heil, Musician, Educator
Donna Northcott, Educator, Director/Producer St. Louis Shakespeare
Mariah Richardson, Playwright, Director
Tim Schall, Singer, Producer, St. Louis Cabaret Project
Rob Scoggins, Professional Dancer, Educator
Marilyn Sheperd, Dancer, Educator
Nancy Sherwin, Educator, Program Director
Dylan Stanley, Dancer, Choreographer, PR Stifel Theatre
Kasimu Taylor, Professional Musician, Teacher
Nicole Thomas, Dunham Dancer, Educator, Pinx Academy of Dance
David Wacyk, Musician, Educator

Judges – Semi-final Round

Tali Allen, Vocalist, Educator, The Muny
Kirven Douthit-Boyd, COCA, Professional Dancer & Educator
Kelly Ging, Professional Dancer, Educator, moSTLY Tap
Marc Gordon, Professional Musician, Chamber Music Society of St. Louis & SLSO
Josh Harris, Producer, Composer, Engineer, and Music Industry Educator
Paul Reuter, Musician, Composer, Director
Ashley Tate, Professional Dancer, Educator, Ashleyliane Dance Company
Lara Teeter, Performer, Educator, Webster University
Phil Woodmore, Professional Musician, Educator

Special Awards Committee

Jeanne Dobbins
Ken Dobbins
Lee Anne Mathews

Donna Rogers-Beard
Cait VanDeWiele
Pat Vogelsang

Special Thanks

The staff of The Fabulous Fox Theatre

Amy Shaw, Jim Kirchherr, Brian Holder, and staff at Nine PBS
Rhonda Weller-Stilson, Southeast Missouri State University
Chris Bond, Kirkwood High School
Linda C. Mueller
Jeff Noble, Andrea Walker, Tassandra Crush, and **Bouffant Daddy Salon**
Fran Ann Engraving
Meyer Printing
Chris Kilcullen



In Memoriam

Lee Nolting was a longtime Teen Talent advocate and judge. She retired from COCA in 2020 after serving as the Jazz and Musical Theatre Dance Coordinator and Artistic Director of COCAdance for nearly 30 years. Lee taught, mentored, counseled, guided, befriended and “mothered” thousands of students over the course of her life. We are grateful for her indefatigable support of the St. Louis Teen Talent Competition and we miss her terribly.

13th Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition

High Schools represented in this year's Competition:

Althoff Catholic High School
Belleville Township High School East
Belleville Township High School West
Calhoun High School
Carnahan High School
Central Community High School
Central Visual and Performing Arts High School
Christian High School
Clayton High School
Collegiate School of Medicine and Bio Science
Collinsville High School
Columbia High School
East St. Louis Charter High School
Edwardsville High School
First Baptist Academy
Fort Zumwalt East High School
Fort Zumwalt North High School
Francis Howell Central High School
Francis Howell High School
Francis Howell North High School
Freeburg Community High School
Gateway STEM High School
Grand Center Arts Academy
Granite City High School
Hazelwood Central High School
Hazelwood East High School
Hazelwood West High School
Homeschool

Innovation High School at Cool Valley
John Burroughs High School
Kirkwood High School
Lutheran North High School
Marquette Catholic High School
Marquette High School
Mater Dei Catholic High School
McCluer North High School
McKinley Classical Leadership Academy High School
Mehlville High School
Missouri Military Academy
Nerinx Hall High School
North Point High School
Oakville High School
O'Fallon Township High School
Rivers of Life Christian School
Rolla High School
St Joseph's Academy
St. Dominic High School
St. Francis Borgia High School
St. Joseph's Academy
Saint Louis Priory School
Triad High School
Vandalia High School
Villa Duchesne
Visitation Academy
Webster Groves High School
Westminster Christian Academy



STAY INFORMED

Look for some of the top finalist acts to perform at various St. Louis locations this spring and summer. Updates about upcoming appearances will be posted on social media sites. Scan the QR code for more information and to pre-register for the 2024 St. Louis Teen Talent Competition

13th Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition

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