



# Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan

## Statue of Enrico Caruso Society

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November 1, 2017

Dear Vocal Music Teacher:

We are pleased to inform you once again of the exciting event organized by the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, in cooperation with the Italian American Cultural Center in Clinton Township and the Italian American Club of Livonia Charitable Foundation: the Twenty-fourth annual "Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students".

Our mission is to encourage and help develop talented young vocalists in the art of operatic singing and to promote appreciation for Italian classical vocal music and the Italian language. In this competition ten finalists will be selected from the music CD (not MP3 or similar) auditions of each contestant's singing submitted through their respective high schools. Entries must be postmarked no later than Saturday, February 16, 2018.

Selection of the ten finalists, from all the entries received, will be completed in early March 2018. All participants will be notified of results in writing, in a letter addressed to their teacher at each respective high school, by March 20, 2018. The final competition will be in the form of a live concert, the "Concert of the Finalists", where the finalists will perform their selections with a piano accompanist, to be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018, at the beautiful Italian American Cultural Center (see attached publicity flyer for details). Each of the finalists will receive a cash prize ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, sponsored by the Italian American Club of Livonia Charitable Foundation and their supporters, in addition to the opportunity to perform before a live audience. The names of the finalists and their schools will be publicized through press releases printed in newspapers and other publications.

Please download a copy of the rules and the entry form for the contest at [www.verdioperatheatre.com](http://www.verdioperatheatre.com). Also available is a poster-collage of newspaper articles and photos of contestants from our previous competitions. We suggest that this poster be placed in a prominent bulletin board in your school for the students to see. We urge you to bring this exciting news to the attention of your students and we look forward to receiving your school's entries. For any questions or additional information you may require, please contact Mr. John Zaretti at 734-552-4236, or e-mail at [verdiopera@comcast.net](mailto:verdiopera@comcast.net).

We wish good luck to all the participants and, most of all, enjoy the music-making.

Arrivederci!

John Zaretti  
President

Verdi Opera Theatre - Enrico Caruso Society

Sandra Tornberg  
President

Italian American Cultural Society

Maria Harris  
President

IACL Charitable Foundation

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