



## Rules and Regulations Official Rules - Berkshire Idol 2023

### **Eligibility & How to Enter**

Berkshire Idol is open to anyone ages 7 to adult. The contest is open to individuals only - not duos or groups - who do not have an existing recording contract. There will be three age brackets for the competition this year: those between the ages of 7 - 11, 12 -16, and 17 to adult.

Applicants under the age of 18 must submit signed permission from their parents or guardians on the day of auditions.

Applicants must be able to attend one of the audition dates (March 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, or 26<sup>th</sup>) as well as the Berkshire Idol semifinals on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 and the finals on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Eligible applicants can enter Berkshire Idol by registering online at [minervaartscenter.org/berkshireidol23/](http://minervaartscenter.org/berkshireidol23/). A **NON REFUNDABLE** \$20.00 fee is due on the day of the event, as long as you have registered online and received an email confirmation. You may also choose to register at the door; however, the fee will be \$25.00 and spaces are not guaranteed. There will be no refunds.

Singers from each age bracket will be selected to advance to the semifinal round. Singers will be notified as to their status immediately following their auditions.

Competitors selected as semifinalists agree to raise at least \$250.00 for the Minerva Arts Center Fundraiser.

All singers advancing to the semifinals must bring their music CD or digital track on a USB drive, their pledge forms and money with them on the day of sound check. **Those who do not deliver the funds with the pledge sheet will not be able to perform in the semi-finals.**

In addition to the funds raised, those proceeding to the semifinal and final rounds must provide

Berkshire Idol organizers with their own prerecorded musical accompaniment (audio track only) on CD or USB to be played during their on-stage performance.

### **Application Deadline**

Online registration must be received by Berkshire Idol by 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) on the Wednesday prior to auditions. People wishing to register after this time must do so at the door for \$25 at the initial Audition. Walk-in audition spots will be limited and we cannot guarantee space to those who do not pre-register.

### **Judging and Selection of Contestants and Winners**

A panel of judges selected by Berkshire Idol will judge all singers at the North, South, and Central Berkshire County Audition locations. The judges will take into account the vocal quality, performance style and on-stage presence, and whether the music suits the applicant's voice.

At the Berkshire Idol Semifinals, 8 contestants from each age category will be selected to advance to the finals.

At the Finals, the contestant from each age bracket with the overall highest score, as determined by the panel of judges, will be chosen as first-place winners.

Decisions of the judges are final and not subject to appeal. Feedback and scoresheets will not be provided to contestants at any level of the competition.

### **Songs to be Performed in Auditions and Performances**

Contestants must perform 16 bars of an acappella selection at the audition. If they are chosen for the semifinals, contestants must choose a different song to perform than they auditioned with. If they are chosen for the finals, contestants may choose the same song or a different song to perform than they performed at the semi-finals. Songs performed at the semifinals and finals must be accompanied by a recorded audio track, on separate audio CD or USB, one track per CD/USB.

The Berkshire Idol organizing committee discourages the use of backing tracks that contain backup vocals for the Berkshire Idol competition. However, we recognize that some contestants may encounter difficulty obtaining instrumental-only backing tracks, therefore, contestants may use backing tracks that feature backup vocals, only if the backup vocals constitute relatively minor chorus parts and do not substantially support the vocal performance of the contestant. The determination of this is solely at the discretion of the judges.

Songs must be edited to no longer than 4 minutes in length. Performers whose songs go beyond the 4-minute-limit will be disqualified.

**Note:** Separate CDs/USBs MUST be provided for the semi-final and the final rounds! Only one track per CD/USB, to eliminate the chance for error during performance. CDs/USBs must be tested prior to the performance and be playable either on a computer OR on CD player!

There will be a Tech Call (time tba) on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 (semi-finals) and Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023(Finals). Each CD/USB can be tested on the actual equipment that will be used in performance to set volume levels and insure quality. It is strongly advised that contestants or their associates come to the tech call!

A contestant will be disqualified if a majority of the members of the panel of judges deems the content to be excessively vulgar, profane, rude, sexually explicit, or beyond acceptable standards of family entertainment. The decision to disqualify will be final, binding and not subject to appeal.

### **Notification of Selected Applicants and Contestants**

If a selected contestant is not available to continue or fails to meet the fundraising or musical requirements for the competition she/he/they will forfeit any claim to continue as a contestant and may be replaced with another contestant selected by a panel of judges. Regardless, the Berkshire Idol Contest events will continue without delay or adjournment with the remaining contestants.

### **Prizes for Winners**

1st Prize Age 17 - adult: \$1000

2nd Prize Age 17 - adult: \$500

1st Prize Age 12 - 16: \$500

2nd Prize Age 12 - 16: \$250

1st Prize Age 7 - 11: \$250

2nd Prize Age 7 - 11: \$125

### **Prizes for Fundraising**

Highest Fundraiser (over \$500) - The award for highest fundraiser is not limited to contestants chosen for the semi-final or final round of competition! Anyone who participates in fundraising for Berkshire Idol is eligible to win the fundraising prize! The fundraising contest concludes on May 6<sup>th</sup> on the night of the Finals. All fundraising money must be turned over to the Berkshire Idol organizing committee at this time (people will be available at the Finals to take your money and pledge forms). A winner will be announced at the final performance of Berkshire Idol.

### **Limits of Responsibility**

Applicants agree that Berkshire Idol is not liable to them or to their heirs and assigns for death,

personal injury, losses or damages of any kind caused by traveling to or from Berkshire Idol venues, being present at the venues, participating in the contest or being selected to, or disqualified from, continuing in the contest.

### **General Conditions**

Eligible applicants who participate in Berkshire Idol events agree to abide by and be bound by these Official Rules and by the decisions of the Berkshire Idol panels of judges, whose decisions are final, binding and not subject to appeal. Lack of civility or failure to abide by the rules will result in disqualification from the contest or forfeiture of prizes, without any liability on the part of Berkshire Idol, sponsors or any other person, firm or corporation.

Contestants who participate in the Finals, agree to provide such information and cooperation to Berkshire Idol staff or panel of judges as may be requested in order to verify their eligibility and compliance with these Official Rules.

Applicants agree to the use of their photograph, name, personal biography, demo CD or audio tape, and recorded or live Berkshire Idol music performances for all promotional purposes related to Berkshire Idol in 2023 and future years, and the use of that information in all forms of media and communication related to Berkshire Idol without compensation or notice, and hereby release Berkshire Idol and its organizers, from any claims or liability arising out of or with respect to such use.

Applicants are responsible for their own arrangements and expenses incurred to participate in Berkshire Idol.

None of those involved in any capacity in organizing, executing, judging or supplying prizes for Berkshire Idol is responsible for covering or reimbursing any expenses incurred by applicants.

All applications and audio CDs/USBs are the property of Berkshire Idol and will not be returned to applicants.

Berkshire Idol reserves the right to terminate or amend these Official Rules, any aspect or all aspects of the Berkshire Idol contest in any way at any time, without notice, should anything interfere with the fair and proper conduct of the contest as envisaged by these rules. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that he/she/they complies with these rules. Any changes or amendments to the Official Rules will be posted online.

While recognizing that judges, corporate sponsors, and contestants may know each other outside of this competition, Berkshire Idol asks that no contact or communication intended to influence, or that would tend to influence, a judge's decision about an applicant's or contestant's performance shall occur between contestants and Berkshire Idol judges or corporate sponsors.