



## **Aria Contest FAQ**

### **1. How can I submit my entry?**

Contestants must send BLO a DVD of their performance by October 2, 2009 along with the following information for each participant: name, age, town of residence, school, and daytime telephone number.

Video files must not exceed three minutes in length and must be in one of the following formats:

- .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- .3GP (cell phones)
- .AVI (Windows)
- .MOV (Mac)
- .MP4 (iPod/PSP)
- .MPEG
- .FLV (Adobe Flash)
- .SWF (Shockwave Flash)
- .MKV (h.264)

Any videos that are not able to be played by BLO will not be uploaded to YouTube.

### **2. Can BLO help me find music?**

All contestants are responsible for acquiring their own music. Public domain versions of some selections may be available on the web and several of the selections can be accessed at:

<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/variations/scores/scores.html>.

**3. Will an accompanist be provided?**

No. Contestants requiring accompaniment must retain their own pianist. An electric keyboard will be available for use at the Shubert Theatre.

**4. Can I sing the aria in English?**

Yes, selections can be performed in English or their original language.

**5. "Nessun dorma" was written for a tenor and I'm a soprano. Can I still sing it?**

Absolutely! We encourage your interpretation of the aria even if it isn't traditional.

**6. How will finalists be decided?**

BLO will screen all submissions in the first round of judging and post semi-finalists' videos on [www.youtube.com/BLOAriaContest](http://www.youtube.com/BLOAriaContest). The public may vote for their favorite performance(s) from October 9-21, 2009. The top rated performances will then be viewed by BLO Artistic Staff and narrowed down to a maximum of five individuals or groups who will perform on November 7.

**7. What equipment will be provided for the finalists at the Shubert Theatre?**

BLO will provide music stands, an electric keyboard, and the necessary number of stand microphones.

**8. How will the stage be arranged where the finalists will perform?**

The finalists will be performing on the set of BLO's *Carmen*. The stage floor will be textured and a planked runway approximately 10' across will be placed on top of it to create the performance space.

**9. How will the winner be decided?**

The judges' decision will be based on the November 7 performance by the contestant(s). Judging criteria includes: musicianship of performance (50 points), quality of performance (30 points), and artist(s) statement (for Finalists; 20 points).