

1. Do the arias submitted on my recording have to be identical to the ones on my application?

No, what the panel wants to hear from your recording are samples of your singing which show your voice, technique and command of languages, although they would appreciate hearing some portion of your competition repertoire. Include your name and arias on disc's.

2. Can I make changes to my audition repertoire after my application is sent?

No, and the reason is that our accompanists review and prepare your repertoire and it is not fair to ask them to prepare new music at the last moment.

3. Can I bring my own accompanist? Or is there a fee for an accompanist being provided?

You may bring your own accompanist if so desired. There is no charge to contestants for any accompanist we provide for you.

4. Should I forward copies of my music along with my application? And shall I bring my music with me for my accompanist to play from?

We will appreciate copies of any aria that is contemporary or rarely performed be submitted with your application materials. For both the semi's and finals all singers are expected to provide their accompanist with tidy copies of all music to be played from.

5. Is the application fee refundable if I do not advance to the semi-finals?

No, the application fee is non-refundable. A few contestants have been disqualified because they did receive a solo contract after applying for the competition. We feel this is a risk worth taking!

6. May I request my audition time, should I advance to the semi-finals?

Yes, and we usually give the contestants from out of town the later audition times due to the traveling. We do, however, recommend that semi-finalists arrive the day before their auditions due to the possibility of unforeseeable travel delays but realize this may not always be possible for all.

7. Are there practice rooms available to warm up by myself and with my accompanist?

Yes, we have numerous practice rooms available and recommend that semi-finalists arrive at least one hour ahead of their scheduled audition time for this purpose and also because, should a singer be delayed, we occasionally audition out of order. We will introduce everyone to their respective accompanist upon arrival, as well.

8. Is there any lodging for out of town contestants?

Each contestant is responsible for his or her expenses while in Houston. We do have a connection with **The Comfort Suites** located at: *6221 Richmond Ave. Houston TX 77057* Email: *comfordsuitestx671@gmail.com* and phone: *713-787-0004*. Airbnb is an option.

9. How many arias will I be expected to sing from my listed repertoire?

Two (per day)! All semi-finalists and then finalists will introduce themselves to the judges and then offer one of the 4 pre-selected arias. After singing the first aria, the judges will decide which remaining aria they would like to hear on both days. Finalists will have the addition of an audience on Sunday. It does often happen that our finalists will sing all four arias in the two days.

10. How will the results of the semi-finalists be learned?

All contestants may find the judging results on our website: www.somainfo.org, and the finalists (usually 10) will be listed in order of appearance, usually but not always, by 10 pm on the semi-final evening.

11. What is the dress code for each day?

Semi-finals: All semi-finalists should dress in business / casual type attire.

Ladies should wear comfortable, flattering dresses & shoes, (there are stairs to descend and climb) suits or skirt and blouse. Mini skirts, distracting patterns and revealing attire are sincerely discouraged.

Men should wear suits.

Finals: Formal concert attire.

Ladies evening gowns are expected and once again, mini skirts, distracting patterns and revealing attire are sincerely discouraged.

Men are expected to wear suits or tuxedos.

12. For any additional questions, please write to Shelley:

loisballovesopera@gmail.com



