



HERBIE HANCOCK  
INSTITUTE OF JAZZ

**2026 HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE  
INTERNATIONAL JAZZ VOCALS COMPETITION  
AT FONDATION LOUIS VUITTON**

**The Herbie Hancock Institute International Jazz Competition is the world's most prestigious jazz competition, dedicated to discovering and supporting the next generation of jazz artists.**

First Place     \$50,000  
Second Place   \$25,000  
Third Place     \$10,000

Fifty percent of each prize will be paid directly to the winner. The remaining funds will be applied toward the winner's future musical education.

The Herbie Hancock Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition is open to all vocalists who plan to pursue jazz performance as a career. Eligibility is exclusive to vocalists who are 30 years of age and under as of October 11, 2026.

**Semifinals**

October 10, 2026  
Paris, France  
Fondation Louis Vuitton

**Finals**

October 11, 2026  
Paris, France  
Fondation Louis Vuitton

Hotel accommodations and air transportation will be provided for competitors who reside outside the greater Paris metropolitan area.

**The Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz** is a nonprofit education organization with a mission to offer the world's most promising young musicians college level training by internationally acclaimed jazz masters and to present public school music education programs for young people around the world. The Institute preserves, perpetuates and expands jazz as a global art form, and utilizes jazz as a means to unite people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities. All of the Institute's programs are provided free of charge to students, schools and communities worldwide. The Institute's programs use jazz as the medium to encourage imaginative thinking, creativity, a positive self-image, and a respect for one's own and others' cultural heritage.

The Institute reaches millions of people through a wide range of jazz programs. In partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Institute serves as the lead nonprofit organization charged with planning and promoting International Jazz Day, a worldwide celebration of jazz held each year on April 30. Through the Institute's International Jazz Competition, Institute of Jazz Performance graduate-level college program at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, Jazz in the Classroom, National Jazz Curriculum, and other educational initiatives, the Institute provides in-school and after-school instruction, scholarships, performance opportunities and worldwide recognition to gifted young musicians.



## **Rules and Information**

1. The selection of the semifinalists will be based on the submitted audio presentation, resume and application form.
2. The attached application form must be completed in full. Please include a \$50 application fee, a current resume of musical experience with discography, a one-paragraph biography that highlights your musical accomplishments, an audio submission (MP3 files totaling 20 minutes maximum), and a photo (to be used in the printed program, if selected).
3. Please clearly label the audio submission with your name, telephone number and email address. Please be sure to identify the running order of the selections. The audio submission can be a home, live or studio recording, or a combination of all three types.
4. All applications must be received by July 15, 2026.
5. Applications, photos and audio submissions will not be returned.
6. Entrants agree that in the event they win a prize in this competition, the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz and Fondation Louis Vuitton will have the right to publicize and print their name and likeness, the fact that they won a prize, information about the Competition, and all matters incidental thereto.
7. Entrants agree to the recording, streaming, and broadcasting of their Competition performances, in whole or in part, on platforms including the Fondation Louis Vuitton website, the Herbie Hancock Institute website, YouTube, Facebook, medici.tv, television broadcasts, documentary film productions, and any other digital, VOD, broadcast, or media platforms now known or hereafter developed.
8. All federal, state and local taxes on prizes are the sole responsibility of the winner.



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## Performance Requirements

Please submit the following compositions in the order specified. Improvised or composed scatting - with syllables, lyrics or over an existing/historical instrumental solo - are acceptable modes of presentation, though not required.

1. A ballad performance, using only one accompanying instrument, of a jazz standard, a portion of which must be sung a cappella a tempo.
2. A medium tempo performance of a jazz standard OR a medium tempo Latin/Brazilian composition with trio.
3. An uptempo performance of a jazz standard, with quartet.
4. A 12-bar blues of your choice with your choice of accompaniment.
5. Perform an arrangement of a non-jazz work (e.g., rock, hip-hop/rap, R&B/soul, EDM, sacred music, country, western classical, indigenous music, or an original composition), reinterpreted through a jazz idiom, reflecting the applicant's individual voice across today's interconnected musical landscape. Accompaniment may be of the performer's choosing.  
*\* Please be aware: all applicants should note that Performance Requirement 5 will be repeated at the live Semifinals round, where performances are presented with the Competition band.*

For additional information, or for questions about the performance requirements, please call the Institute at 202-364-7272 or email Leonard Brown at [lebrown@hancockinstitute.org](mailto:lebrown@hancockinstitute.org).

**Please complete and submit the application form on the next page.**



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**2026 HERBIE HANCOCK INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ VOCALS COMPETITION  
— APPLICATION FORM —**

*(Please print clearly or type)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of musical training: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, you, the applicant, give rights to the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz and its partners/contractors to record, videotape, photograph, publicize and print your likeness and all matters incidental thereto in relation to the Institute.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature (if applicant is under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Include:

- Resume of musical experience
- One-paragraph biography highlighting musical experience
- Audio copies of the performance requirements
- Photo
- \$50 application fee

Email or mail application to

**Leonard Brown**

Email: [lebrown@hancockinstitute.org](mailto:lebrown@hancockinstitute.org)

Telephone: (202) 364-7272

Mail: Leonard Brown

Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz

5225 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 605

Washington, DC 20015-2014

United States

**— International Jazz Vocals Competition Application Deadline: July 15, 2026 —**