



**International Young Soloists Award
2010 Application Guidelines**

Since 1984, the VSA arts International Young Soloists Program has been seeking to identify talented musicians who have a disability. The VSA arts International Young Soloists Award is given annually to four outstanding musicians, two from the United States and two from the international arena. The award provides an opportunity for these emerging musicians to each earn a \$5,000 award and a performance in Washington, D.C.

Eligibility

Any individual musician (instrumental or vocal) from the United States who has a disability, age 25 and under, is eligible to apply. Any individual musician (instrumental or vocal) from outside the United States who has a disability, age 30 and under, is eligible to apply. Individual musicians should complete the Individual Musician Application Form.

Applications from musical ensembles (two to eight members) will be accepted for the International Young Soloists Award. This includes any type of ensemble from a rock band to a chamber ensemble to a drum corps. In order to be eligible, at least one member of the ensemble must have a disability. All members of the ensemble must fulfill age requirements as stated above. The ensemble should complete the Ensemble Application Form.

All types of music will be accepted, including but not limited to Rock/Alt Rock, Pop, Indie, Classical, Country/Folk, Jazz, R&B/Blues, Hip Hop/Rap, Latin, and World.

As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, a disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. (An impairment is a physiological disorder affecting one or more of a number of body systems, or a mental or psychological disorder.)

Selection Process

An advisory committee comprised of music professionals and educators will assist with the selection process. Selections will be announced in January 2010.

Selection Criteria

The VSA arts International Young Soloists Award advisory committee will evaluate each audition recording in the areas of technique, tone, rhythm, interpretation, and intonation (if applicable).

United States Affiliate Selection Process

All VSA arts United States affiliates implement their own International Young Soloists Award programs. Applicants must send their entry materials to the appropriate address for their state, as found on www.vsarts.org/soloists. Entries received at the VSA arts headquarters from United States soloists will be forwarded to their state affiliate for initial evaluation. Entries from all states are then forwarded to the VSA arts headquarters for consideration in the national adjudication.

Selection Process for International Applicants

All applicants from outside the United States should submit their application form, biographical description, and recording to:

VSA *arts* International Young Soloists Award
818 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20006

Application Procedures Checklist

Each applicant is required to submit the following materials:

- Completed and signed Individual Musician OR Ensemble Application Form.
- One-page narrative including biographical information and the reasons why the applicant feels he/she should be selected as the recipient of the 2010 VSA *arts* International Young Soloists Award. This information should focus on the applicant's musical training and experience and not the applicant's disability.
- A recording (CD, DVD, VHS or audio tape) presenting three (3) musical selections. A CD or DVD format recording is preferred. Video tapes from camcorders will not be accepted.

Hints: The music and artistry should be easily heard on your recording. It isn't necessary for the selections to be from one performance, but they should represent recent performances. Since the selected performers will not be permitted to use recorded music in their performance, **applicants must use live accompaniment on the audition recording.** We recommend that you not perform multiple instruments on your recording. Pick what you do best and stick to it!

Application materials should be sent to the appropriate address found on www.vsarts.org and received no later than November 16, 2009 for United States musicians and December 1, 2009 for musicians outside the United States.

Award Presentation and Performance Opportunities

Recipients of the VSA *arts* International Young Soloists Award will receive their award and perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. in June 2010 as part of the 2010 International VSA *arts* Festival.

About VSA arts

VSA *arts* is an international nonprofit organization founded 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. VSA *arts* provides educators, parents, and artists with resources and the tools to support arts programming in schools and communities. VSA *arts* showcases the accomplishments of artists with disabilities and promotes increased access to the arts for people with disabilities. Each year 7 million people participate in VSA *arts* programs through a nationwide network of affiliates and in 54 countries around the world. VSA *arts* is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For more information about VSA *arts*, visit www.vsarts.org.