

Campbell Opera Librettist Prize 2026

OPERA America

Campbell Opera Librettist Prize

The Campbell Opera Librettist Prize is supported by Mark Campbell.

Timeline

Intent to apply deadline: January 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET

Required to access the full application

Application deadline: February 12, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET

Grantees notified: April 2026

To access the grant guidelines, please [click here](#). Please read the guidelines in full before applying.

Applicant Information

Applicant First Name

Character Limit: 100

Applicant Surname/Family Name

Character Limit: 100

Applicant Email Address

Character Limit: 254

Applicant Website (optional)

Character Limit: 2000

Applicant Biography*

Share a brief narrative biography in the space below that includes names of theatrical productions you have been a part of and previous awards you have received. Do not include quotes from reviews by critics.

Upload a PDF version of your full biography or resume/CV.

Character Limit: 2000 / File Size Limit: 3 MB

Narrative

Answer the following narrative questions about your work in opera and your vision for the future of the art form and/or industry. Draw from examples across your career in your responses, as applicable.

Reason for Applying*

Why would you like to be considered for the Campbell Opera Librettist Prize at this time?

Character Limit: 2000

Why opera?*

What compels you to choose opera as a form for telling stories?

Character Limit: 5000

Experience*

How have your experiences throughout your career, whether as a theater artist or a writer of other genres, for example, helped to shape you into the librettist/lyricist you are today?

Character Limit: 5000

Collaboration*

What do you believe makes for a successful collaboration with a composer? How do you know when a collaboration is successful?

Character Limit: 5000

Vision for the Future*

What direction would you like to see opera go in the future? How will you contribute to moving the art form and/or the industry in that direction?

Character Limit: 5000

Work Samples

Using the fields below, submit two or three written work samples that best represent your artistic work and voice. Recent examples are preferred.

- Two of the samples must be from opera librettos that have been set to music or are in the process of being set (though not necessarily premiered in a full production).
- Audio or video recordings of the submitted samples (whether set to music or text readings) are not required, but are encouraged.
- Only complete dramatic works for the stage will be considered. Screenplays, poems, text for arias, fragments from librettos, and academic articles are not accepted.
- Shorter and/or one-act librettos are permitted.

- Librettos written in languages other than English must be accompanied by a complete English translation.

All samples should be hosted audio or video on sites like YouTube, Vimeo, Dropbox, or SoundCloud. Combined samples must be no longer than 30 minutes. Individual samples should not exceed 10 minutes in length. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure samples are accessible to the review panel until they are notified of the outcome of their application.

SAMPLE 1

Sample 1 - Title*

Character Limit: 100

Sample 1 - Relevance

Why are you presenting this as one of your samples?

Character Limit: 250

Sample 1 - Libretto Upload*

Upload a complete libretto corresponding to your chosen work sample.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Sample 1 - A/V link

If set by a composer.

Character Limit: 2000

Sample 1 - A/V password (if necessary)

Character Limit: 100

Sample 1 - Timings

If you are not provided trimmed samples to a specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., play from 3'22" to 7'49").

Character Limit: 250

Sample 1 - Composer Name (if applicable)

Character Limit: 100

Sample 1 - Additional Librettist (if applicable)

Character Limit: 250

Sample 1 - Synopsis*

Character Limit: 1000

Sample 1 - Production History (if applicable)

Character Limit: 1000

Sample 1 - Description

Include roles, voicing, and information about this work sample, and credit performing artists.

Example:

SOPRANO, Sally Singer

BASS, Bobby Baritone

It's raining. In this duet, Sally Singer tries to encourage young Bobby Baritone to continue his opera career in New York, but Bobby Baritone longs to go back home to Kansas to be with his family. This work sample shows my ability to write for various voice types, and the orchestral music demonstrates my ability to dictate complex emotions - in this case longing and indecisiveness.

Character Limit: 1000

SAMPLE 2

Sample 2 - Title*

Character Limit: 100

Sample 2 - Relevance

Why are you presenting this as one of your samples?

Character Limit: 250

Sample 2 - Libretto Upload*

Upload a complete libretto corresponding to your chosen work sample.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Sample 2 - A/V link

If set by a composer.

Character Limit: 2000

Sample 2 - A/V password (if necessary)

Character Limit: 100

Sample 2 - Timings

If you are not providing trimmed samples to the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., play from 3'22" - 7'49").

Character Limit: 250

Composer Sample 2 - Composer Name (if applicable)

Character Limit: 100

Sample 2 - Additional Librettist (if applicable)

Character Limit: 250

Sample 2 - Synopsis*

Character Limit: 1000

Sample 2 - Production History

If applicable.

Character Limit: 1000

Sample 2 - Description

Include roles, voicing, and information about this work sample, and credit performing artists.

Example:

SOPRANO, Sally Singer

BASS, Bobby Baritone

It's raining. In this duet, Sally Singer tries to encourage young Bobby Baritone to continue his opera career in New York, but Bobby Baritone longs to go back home to Kansas to be with his family. This work sample shows my ability to write for various voice types, and the orchestral music demonstrates my ability to dictate complex emotions - in this case longing and indecisiveness.

Character Limit: 1000

SAMPLE 3 (Optional)

Sample 3 - Title

Character Limit: 100

Sample 3 - Relevance

Why are you presenting this as one of your samples?

Character Limit: 250

Sample 3 - Libretto Upload

Upload a complete libretto corresponding to your chosen work sample.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Sample 3 - A/V Link

If set by a composer.

Character Limit: 2000

Sample 3 - A/V Password (if necessary)

Character Limit: 100

Sample 3 - Timings

If you are not providing trimmed samples to the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., play from 3'22" - 7'49").

Character Limit: 250

Sample 3 - Composer Name (if applicable)

Character Limit: 100

Sample 3 - Additional Librettist (if applicable)

Character Limit: 250

Sample 3 - Synopsis

Character Limit: 1000

Sample 3 - Production History (if applicable)

Character Limit: 1000

Sample 3 - Description

Include roles, voicing, and information about this work sample, and credit performing artists.

Example:

SOPRANO, Sally Singer

BASS, Bobby Baritone

It's raining. In this duet, Sally Singer tries to encourage young Bobby Baritone to continue his opera career in New York, but Bobby Baritone longs to go back home to Kansas to be with his family. This work sample shows my ability to write for various voice types, and the orchestral music demonstrates my ability to dictate complex emotions - in this case longing and indecisiveness.

Character Limit: 1500

Signature

Applicant signature*

By typing your name below, you acknowledge that the information contained in this application and its attachments is accurate and complete.

Character Limit: 100