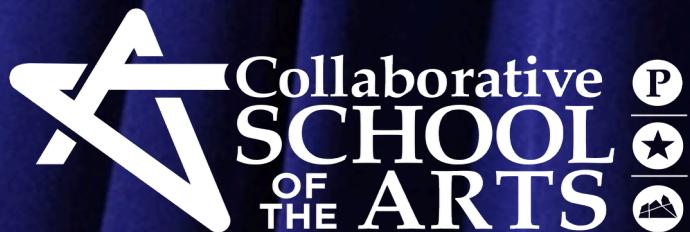


HIGH SCHOOL Musical Theatre Awards at PROCTORS



PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK 2026



432 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 382-3884 | collaborativeschoolofthearts.org

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GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION OF PROCTORS

Through arts and community leadership, to be a catalyst for excellence in education, sustainable economic development, and rich civic engagement, to enhance the quality of life in the greater Capital Region.

MISSION OF HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS AT PROCTORS

To celebrate, inspire, and honor excellence and achievement in high school musical theatre, and to highlight the importance of musical theatre and arts education within the greater Capital Region.

ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS AT PROCTORS

In collaboration with The Broadway League, this event celebrates the vibrant world of high school musical theatre and pays homage to the abundant talent flourishing in the greater Capital Region.

Mirroring the prestige of the Tony Awards, the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Jimmy Awards) is an annual red-carpet affair honoring participating schools in a dazzling award ceremony each May. The event features a diverse range of accolades, including individual and group awards, both on stage and behind the scenes. The recipients of the Outstanding Lead Performer awards will serve as ambassadors for Proctors and the Capital Region at the annual Jimmy Awards in New York City.

Proctors Collaborative believes in doing what it takes to make our diverse Capital Region community more equitable, accessible, and inclusive. As you consider characters to submit for Outstanding Lead Performers, please be aware of the casting history in theatre and how it has negatively impacted underrepresented communities. We encourage you to make casting selections that are authentic and in line with the roles being played.

REGISTRATION FORM

Open Sept. 12, 2025

[Access form here](#)

Once registered, schools and students have the opportunity to participate in an educational and enriching experience, including, but not limited to:

- **Adjudication:** industry professionals from across the area attend performances to evaluate the show in various categories.
- **Awards:** school musicals and students will be considered for various awards.
- **Ceremony:** A Tony Awards-style event to celebrate participating schools and students on the MainStage at Proctors.
- **The Jimmy Awards:** winners of the Outstanding Lead Performer award will get the opportunity to compete on a national level at the Jimmy Awards in NYC (all expenses sponsored by Proctors).

THE JIMMY AWARDS

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA), otherwise known as the Jimmy Awards, was established in 2009 by Pittsburgh CLO and Nederlander Alliances, a division of The Nederlander Organization, to elevate the importance of theatre arts education in schools and reward excellence in student performance. The program impacts approximately 100,000 students annually who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by over 40 professional theatres throughout the US.

Presented by the Broadway League Foundation, the program invites two winners from each of these regional ceremonies to participate in a theatre intensive, including coaching and rehearsals, with Broadway professionals in preparation for a one-night-only talent showcase. The program has been the catalyst for more than \$6,000,000 in educational scholarships.

**For more information, please visit
jimmyawards.com**

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA) is a celebration of student achievement in high school musical theatre across the country, culminating in the annual Jimmy Awards.

OUTSTANDING LEAD PERFORMER WINNERS

The winners of the Outstanding Lead Performer awards will represent Proctors and Upstate New York at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards in June 2026.

The winners will participate with students from across the country for the titles of Best National High School Actor and Best National High School Actress. Winners will also receive 10 days of training with Broadway professionals and have opportunities to win college and other scholarships. In the event the Proctors High School Musical Theatre Awards winner(s) are unable to participate in the NHSMTA program, the nominee(s) with the second-highest adjudicator's score will be invited.

This is an all-expenses-paid opportunity for students from the Capital Region, sponsored by the Collaborative School of the Arts. All Lead Performer nominees must attend a mandatory information meeting with CSAO staff to discuss The Jimmys, finalist requirements, and pre-Jimmys Master Classes with the creative team.

Included

- Travel to NYC
- All meals and accommodations
- Two tickets to the Jimmy Awards for families of nominees
- Two tickets to the afterparty for families of nominees

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Proctors invites all public and private high schools in the eligible counties of upstate New York to apply to participate in the 2026 program. Schools that meet all eligibility criteria and whose completed applications are received by the Collaborative School of the Arts at Proctors will be guaranteed participation. Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received.

NEW YORK COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE HSMTA AT PROCTORS

**Albany
Columbia
Essex
Fulton
Greene**

**Hamilton
Herkimer
Montgomery
Rensselaer
Saratoga**

**Schenectady
Schoharie
Ulster
Warren
Washington**

Schools have to produce one of the 400+ full-length musicals approved by the National High School Musical Theatre Awards listed at collaborativeschoolofhearts.org/hsmta. Schools must send a signed copy of the licensing agreement for the production to participate.

Proctors can accommodate a limited number of schools for the 2026 program. Therefore, participation will be on a first come, first served basis. The first 30 eligible schools with musical productions occurring between Feb. 6 and March 29 who return a completed application by the deadline will be guaranteed participation. Participating schools must maintain access and all rights to music rentals through the date of the ceremony.

FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE WITH PROGRAM MANAGER ON UPDATES CAN RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF SCHOOL/STUDENT OR INABILITY TO PERFORM AT CEREMONY.

PARTICIPATION FEE

A non-refundable \$300 application fee is required of all schools.

Each participating high school is required to **maintain access to and all rights to music** through the High School Musical Theatre Awards ceremony. It is the responsibility of the school or production contact to reach out to the licensing house regarding extending rights. Please note: multiple licensing houses require notification from Proctors to maintain rights.

The school contact must inform
Shai Davenport at **sdavenport@proctorscollaborative.org**
as soon as possible if this is necessary.

TIME COMMITMENT

The Collaborative School of the Arts recognizes the many hours of hard work that educators put in daily. One of our goals has been to not create additional work for educators but to provide a space for that work to be showcased. Please be aware there is an extra time commitment required by schools and students who participate.

SCHOOL CONTACTS

To streamline information, a maximum of two persons per school will receive any and all information regarding the High School Musical Theatre Awards. All communications, including arranging evaluator tickets, will be conducted via email. If your school email server has stringent screening/blocking programs in place, please provide an alternate, non-school email address.

School and production contact persons' email addresses and phone numbers will be given to the NHSMTA in compliance with the necessary documentation. The school contact can also be the production contact, making one sole contact for the school.

PRIMARY CONTACT

Each school must identify a primary contact person on the participation form. The primary contact must be a teacher or administrator at the school and should have regular access to phone and emails as all major correspondence regarding the program will be directed to this person.

PRODUCTION CONTACT

The production contact is the individual responsible for selecting, producing, and/or directing the musical at each high school. This can be the leader of the drama club, a teacher, or another person engaged to produce the musical at the high school.

STUDENT APPRENTICE

Due to the additional time commitment of HSMTA, the Collaborative School of the Arts highly encourages taking on an apprentice to assist in the process. Students assigned as an apprentice will get special recognition at the ceremony and will have the opportunity to sit in on rehearsals.

ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Any interested high school musical staff are invited to attend an in-person informational meeting. The meeting will provide program details and an opportunity to ask questions of the HSMTA staff and creative team.

NEW! CHECK-IN MEETINGS

To ensure schools receive full support throughout our program, we will schedule check-ins with each school. These check-ins will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions, confirm you're on track with deadlines, and let us know how we can best support you.

Awards will be given for excellence in the following categories. The Outstanding Musical category will consist of three budget tiers to be determined. To stay true to the mission of celebrating, inspiring, and honoring excellence in high school musical theatre, the award nominations will recognize the talent, skill, and achievement of students, grades 6-12, and not the efforts of assisting faculty and/or professionals.

Outstanding Musical – Tier A
Outstanding Musical – Tier B
Outstanding Musical – Tier C
Outstanding Lead Performer (1)
Outstanding Lead Performer (2)
Outstanding Supporting Performer (1)
Outstanding Supporting Performer (2)
Outstanding Ensemble
Outstanding Choreography
Backstage Excellence
Outstanding Achievement
Dance Excellence (NEW!)
Rising Star (NEW!)
Spirit of Theatre

In an effort to be a more equitable program, Proctors joins many of our peer institutions across the country in changing the name of the Lead and Supporting categories to be non-gendered. This move also comes as a way to give educators more flexibility in their casting choices as their student populations become more diverse. This award category may not reflect the current state of the Jimmy Awards policies or practices.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Outstanding Ensemble award represents recognition for a group of performers who have demonstrated exceptional collaboration, cohesion, and performance quality as a collective unit. This award celebrates the collective effort and synergy of the ensemble cast, recognizing their ability to work together harmoniously to enhance the overall quality and impact of the production. Judge evaluations and scores determine this award.

Outstanding Choreography Execution award represents recognition for individuals or groups who have demonstrated exceptional skill and precision in performing choreography. This award celebrates those who bring choreography to life with outstanding performance quality, contributing significantly to the overall impact and success of the production. Judge evaluations and scores determine this award.

Backstage Excellence award represents recognition of a group of students for demonstrating teamwork, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence behind the scenes. Student-run crews, costume crews, set construction crews, stagehands, or any group of students who have dedicated time in a backstage capacity in one of the HSMTA adjudicated musicals are eligible. Information provided by teachers and judge feedback will be evaluated for this award. This award highlights the critical, often unrecognized, work that goes into making a production successful, celebrating the dedication, skill, and teamwork of those who ensure everything runs smoothly from behind the curtain.

Outstanding Musical award represents high recognition for a musical production that excels in numerous areas of performance and production quality, including direction and design, creative vision, technical areas, choreography, and cohesion of all elements. This award celebrates a musical production that excels across all areas, recognizing the collective efforts of the cast, crew, and creative team in delivering an outstanding and memorable performance. Judge evaluations and combined scores across five categories are combined to determine this award. One Outstanding Musical per budget tier will be selected. The top three nominees in each tier will be invited to perform at the annual High School Musical Theatre Awards ceremony in May.

Outstanding Achievement award represents recognition for a school that demonstrated remarkable resilience and success despite facing significant challenges. Challenges may include limited resources, adversity, logistical hurdles, technical difficulties, or performance-related challenges. This award celebrates the group's perseverance, teamwork, and determination to deliver a great performance despite these obstacles, highlighting their dedication and commitment to their craft. This award will be selected based on information received from schools about their production challenges, combined with the judges' feedback about the show.

Outstanding Lead Performer award represents recognition for an individual who has delivered an exceptional performance in a leading role. This award celebrates the talent, hard work, and dedication of the lead performer who has made a remarkable contribution to the production with their performance. Judge evaluations and scores determine this award. A triple-threat audition will be required for finalists to assess abilities in singing, acting, and dancing, and scored by a core panel of industry professional judges, including directors, artistic directors, acting and vocal coaches, and choreographers. The top 10 performers will perform at the annual High School Musical Theatre Awards ceremony in May at Proctors. The two finalists for this category will participate in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, the Jimmys, in New York City, for 10 days in late June. Their participation will be fully sponsored by the Collaborative School of the Arts.

Outstanding Supporting Performer award recognizes an individual who has delivered an exceptional performance in a supporting role. This award celebrates the talent and dedication of the actor in a supporting role who has made a significant and positive impact on the production. Judge evaluations and scores determine this award.

Spirit of Theatre award recognizes one student who embodies exceptional dedication, enthusiasm, and passion for theatre. This award will be given to two students who go above and beyond in their contributions to the theatre program, showing a true passion for the art form and a commitment to excellence. The award will be chosen by students during the week of rehearsal among finalists and representatives performing and representing their schools. Voting for this award will happen the Friday before the ceremony.

NEW! Rising Star award is selected by the HSMTA director, choreographer, and music director during rehearsal week. This award honors a performer who shows exceptional potential, growth, and a standout work ethic.

NEW! Outstanding Dancer award is selected by the HSMTA choreographer. This award recognizes a dancer whose technique, versatility, and expressive performance consistently elevate the choreography.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

GROUP AWARDS

The student participation rates below are required for qualifying in the following award categories. The rate of student participation will be deciphered from the cast, crew, and orchestra lists that the school will provide, as well as the playbill from the production.

- **Outstanding Musical (all tiers):** cast and crew consisting of 90% high school students (grades 6-12)
- **Outstanding Ensemble:** cast consisting of 90% high school students (grades 6-12)
- **Outstanding Choreography:** cast consisting of 90% high school students (grades 6-12)
- **Backstage Excellence:** backstage crew consisting of 90% high school students (grades 6-12)

Use of Students From Other Schools

If a school production calls for casting of students from other high school(s), to be eligible for Outstanding Musical, the cast and crew must consist of 90% students in grades 6-12 from the school registered for the program. Only high school students in grades 9-12 will be eligible to receive individual awards.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Individual awards categories are:

- Outstanding Lead Performer 1
- Outstanding Lead Performer 2
- Outstanding Supporting Performer 1
- Outstanding Supporting Performer 2
- Dance Excellence*
- Rising Star*
- Spirit of Theatre*

**Indicates awards determined during rehearsal week and not through Preliminary Adjudication*

For the purposes of the NHSMTA program, students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role that they played. Outstanding Lead Performer roles are decided by the NHSMTA qualifying role list, which can be found at collaborativeschoolofhearts.org/hsmta. To add shows or roles to the Jimmy Awards list, an appeal is possible through Shai Davenport, sdavenport@proctorscollaborative.org. Please see the important dates for the deadline of this submission. Please refer to the national's ineligible list:

jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles

Outstanding Supporting Roles qualifications are defined below; character(s) must have all of the following:

- Character must be scripted and named
- Character must be listed on the NHSMTA qualifying roles list
- Characters must appear in more than one scene
- Character must have solo lines of dialogue
- Character must have at least one solo
- Characters must have clear, significant contributions to the central or sub-plot(s)
- Character must be portrayed by a student in the grades 9-12

When completing the School and Production forms, please **do not** list any supporting characters who do not meet the requirements stated above; they will not be adjudicated. The total number of supporting characters to be nominated will **be limited to four**.

Please note that featured roles will not be considered as supporting roles.

Double casting

If a show is double-cast, directors must select one cast to be adjudicated.

SPECIAL AWARDS

These awards are selected during rehearsal week by students and the creative team. Special awards categories are:

- **Rising Star:** The recipient will be selected from the nine nominated Outstanding Musicals, chosen by the HSMTA director, choreographer, and music director. The winner will receive a scholarship to the 2026 Collaborative School for Theatrical Training.
- **Dance Excellence:** The recipient will be selected from the nine nominated Outstanding Musicals, chosen by the HSMTA director and choreographer. The winner will receive a scholarship to the 2026-27 Broadway Master Class Series.
- **Spirit of Theatre:** The recipient chosen by students representing the 2026 HSMTA Participating Schools.

LOGO USAGE AND RECOGNITION

Participating schools must give the High School Musical Theatre Awards at Proctors full-page recognition in their production program, highlighting the school's participation in the program. Full page artwork for the ad will be provided by Proctors. Schools must provide Proctors with specifications for their program artwork.

Please see important dates (pg. 17) for all due dates or meeting times.

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Three members of the adjudication panel will attend performances at each participating school and award points based on a rubric system. Following the performance, the adjudicators will complete scores, which will be shared with schools following the HSMTA season. Up to five nominations will be given for each award category, excluding Outstanding Achievement. The Outstanding Musical category will consist of three tiers based on musical production budget. Up to three schools will be nominated within each tier.

Adjudicators are thoroughly vetted for conflicts of interest and are strictly prohibited from scoring any school or show with which they have a connection. Finalist judges are distinct from school judges, and our staff regularly audits both judges and the overall process to ensure fairness and transparency.

We welcome constructive dialogue, but speculation about assignments and process is unproductive and not in the spirit of this program. Our mission is to celebrate student achievement and support schools, and we remain committed to maintaining a process that is impartial, rigorously monitored, and beyond reproach.

All students eligible for Outstanding Lead Performer award will be adjudicated three times. The first adjudication will take place when judges attend the School Production Performance, including scoring them in their principal role.

The Top 20 will be called back for a second adjudication to determine the top 10 Outstanding Lead Performer nominees. The first and final adjudication will happen at the night of the ceremony following a medley performance. For Jimmy Awards purposes, finalists will have to opt in or out to be adjudicated under the Jimmys categories of Best Actor and Best Actress. Those who opt out may still be nominated however they will not be considered for Lead Performer to go on to the Jimmys unless the Jimmys changes its rules for the 2026 awards.

BUDGET TIERS

Budget tiers are based solely on schools' production budget. Each year, budgets change, and so do ranges. Listed below are the 2025 budget tiers:

2025 BUDGET TIERS

TIER A \$30,000 +

TIER B \$18,000-26,000

TIER C \$9,000-15,000

Each school that participates is required to submit its budget. This information does not get shared and will remain confidential.

Purpose of the tier system

Tiers are designed to level the playing field and ensure recognition of artistic excellence relative to the resources available to each production. While some have suggested using school size as the basis for tiers, we have found that production budget more accurately reflects the resources directly available for the show — sets, costumes, technical support, and rehearsal time — than enrollment numbers.

Some of the largest schools in our region operate with smaller show budgets, while some smaller schools mount productions with significant financial and material resources. Tiers based on school size alone would not capture these realities and could unintentionally disadvantage programs that work hard to maximize their resources.

We understand that tier placement may feel disappointing in some cases, and we welcome a conversation for a tier review to provide and context that may affect placement. Our goal is always fairness, transparency, and integrity.

Above all, our mission is to celebrate students and their artistry. Tiers are a tool to ensure that all students — regardless of school size or budget — receive recognition for their hard work and talent.

Thank you for partnering with us to honor high school musical theatre in our region.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations will be announced after all school performances. Nominations will be announced live on the Collaborative School of the Arts social media by members and sponsors of the HSMTA at Proctors.

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE ANNOUNCED

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE



OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHY



OUTSTANDING MUSICAL



OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING PERFORMER



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



TOP 20 LEAD PERFORMERS



The top 20 lead performers will be announced at the time of nominations. Students will attend callbacks, where they will be adjudicated for a second time to give them a final score. The top five lead performers will be announced the following Monday.

IF A SCHOOL IS UNABLE TO COMMIT TO PERFORMING FOR OUTSTANDING MUSICAL, THEY MUST FORFEIT THEIR NOMINATION, AND THE NEXT ELIGIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE SELECTED IN THEIR PLACE.

CALLBACKS

Callbacks will be in an audition-style setting at Proctors in front of a select panel of HSMTA judges, which will include vocal, acting, and dance performances to evaluate their triple threat. Due to new requirements for Lead Performer, there will be two options for callbacks. 20 finalists will then go on to callbacks for a second adjudication to determine 10 finalists.

The scores from the callbacks will then determine the top 10 performers.

All students who want to be considered for Outstanding Lead Performer must submit a resume, headshot, and topic response essay. Students must portray a character from the HSMTA qualifying roles to be eligible for a Best Actor or Best Actress nomination at The Jimmys. Visit collaborativeschoolofhearts.org/hsmta for the complete list of qualifying shows and roles.

SUBMISSION AND MATERIALS

The following materials are required for participation, no exceptions. Materials needed are divided into three categories: pre-adjudication, adjudication, and ceremony. All materials will be submitted via Microsoft Forms or Google Drive. All material must be submitted by the due dates.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT NECESSARY MATERIALS WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF SCHOOL AND STUDENT OR INABILITY TO PERFORM AT THE CEREMONY.

PRE-ADJUDICATION MATERIALS: Due September-December

- Registration form: intent to participate and request for adjudication
- Media release/Playbill information
- Signed license agreement
- Optional: appeals for qualifying roles and shows

ADJUDICATION MATERIALS: Due January-February

- School and production details: This is for schools to share information on school and production challenges. This will be shared with judges.
- Cast, crew, orchestra information: This will determine eligibility for awards.
- Budget tier information: This will determine budget tiers.

CEREMONY MATERIALS:

Due Wednesday, April 1, or no later than 24 hours after nominations are announced

- Production number information
 - Production number
 - Mic assignments
 - Set piece information
 - Number of students
 - Orchestrations
 - Lead Performer solo song

Due Monday, April 20

- Representatives
- Photos
- Award acceptance information

Due Friday, April 3

- Callback and Outstanding Lead Info
- Lead Performer Solo piano/vocal score
- Resume
- Headshot

Due Friday, April 17

- Representatives
- Photos
- Award Acceptance Information

Please see important dates (pg. 17) for all due dates or meeting times.

PHOTOS

Each participating high school must send the following photos to Proctors to be used in the awards ceremony so that every school is represented. The photos must be submitted through Google Drive.

REQUIRED:

- One cast/crew/orchestra photo [one each]
 - Title file “Your school’s name-cast/crew/orchestra photo”
- Three production photos
 - Title file “Your school’s name-Name of production title”
- One production photo of each supporting performer
 - Title file “Your school’s name-Character name”
- Three production photos of each lead performer
 - Title file “Your school’s name-Character name”

Lead actors and actresses’ roles are decided by the NHSMTA qualifying show list. The Jimmys requires photos of winners. Additional photos from rehearsals are also welcome for us to show at the ceremony.

MUSIC SUBMISSION

Each school nominated for Outstanding Musical and Outstanding Lead Performer must submit all orchestrations no later than one week after their school's performance, OR 24 hours after nominations are announced. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS due to the strict orchestration schedule. Unfortunately, if the music is not received by this date, the school will be unable to perform in the ceremony.

Required orchestrations for Outstanding Musical:

- Piano-conductor score
- Reed
- Drums
- Bass

Outstanding Lead Performer medleys will be piano only. Only the piano-conductor score is needed. The music director and director will choose cuts for each nominee.

AWARD CEREMONY PARTICIPATION

All nominees and representatives must attend mandatory rehearsals and represent their school at the awards. The order of performances during the show will be determined by the HSMTA director and music director.

Opening Number and Closing Numbers

Each participating high school is required to have two student representatives from their production to participate in the opening and closing numbers of the ceremony. Students nominated for a Lead or Supporting award will automatically be the representative for a school. If a school does not receive an individual nomination, the representatives will be chosen by the teacher. These students must attend all mandatory rehearsals and represent their school at the awards.

Individual nominees are those students who are nominated for Outstanding Lead Performer and Outstanding Supporting Performer.

Best Musical Nominees

Each school nominated for Outstanding Musical (up to nine schools, three in each budget tier) must perform one ensemble production number from their school production in costume (a max of 25 students and no more than five minutes in length, no exceptions). We limit the number of students in musical numbers due to space and safety requirements. Schools cannot add students to their numbers without consideration and a request in writing to the program manager, and consideration of equity among all schools.

Set pieces will only be allowed if they are small enough to be carried on by ensemble members. The participating ensemble members from each nominated production must attend mandatory rehearsals and represent their school at the awards.

Outstanding Lead Medleys

The Outstanding Lead Performer nominees must perform a one-minute excerpt from their leading role in costume from the school production during the Outstanding Lead Performer medleys. These students must attend mandatory rehearsals and represent their school at the awards. Cuts for these medleys will be selected by the HSMTA music director and approved by the HSMTA director.

REHEARSALS

The Collaborative School of the Arts recognizes the extra time and planning needed to attend rehearsals. We highly encourage schools to start planning as early as possible. It is required that all nominees and representatives attend each rehearsal. When selecting students for individual awards and as representatives, please be aware of scheduling conflicts and let students know the expectations. Rehearsal dates and schedule are provided below.

Any conflicts with a representative must be communicated to the school contact first to work out a schedule before contacting the program manager. Due to solo assignments, spacing, and safety, if a representative cannot commit to every rehearsal, they cannot perform. The school contact must select another student to represent. No exceptions.

PHOTO CALL

Following the ceremony, there is a photo call on stage. Photos will be taken of the following:

- Outstanding Musical winners
- Outstanding Lead Performer winners
- Outstanding Supporting Performer winners
- Outstanding Ensemble winner
- Outstanding Choreography winner
- Backstage Excellence winner
- Special Award winners

IMPORTANT DATES 2025-26

Friday, Sept. 12 – Friday, Oct. 31

School application open

Tuesday, Oct. 14 – Wednesday, Dec. 17

Adjudicator application open

Wednesday, Nov. 19

4 p.m. Informational participation meeting at Proctors

Friday, Dec. 19

Due before starting rehearsals:

- Media release/Playbill information
- Signed copy of licensing agreement
- Optional: appeals for qualifying roles and shows

Friday, Jan. 2 – Friday, Feb. 6

Due before the adjudication period

- School and Production information
- Cast, crew, and orchestra information
- Budget Tier Information

Wednesday, Jan. 21

4 p.m. Preliminary adjudication training

Friday, Feb. 6 - Sunday, March 29

School performances adjudication period. Placement of High School Musical Theatre Awards ad in all participating school playbills.

Wednesday, April 1

3:30 p.m. Nominations announced - (group categories, supporting, top 20 lead performers, and Outstanding Achievement)

Tickets on sale to schools.

Due from schools:

- Outstanding Musical nominee information and music submission
 - NO EXCEPTIONS - due to strict orchestration schedule.
 - Unfortunately, if music is not received by this date, schools will be unable to perform in the ceremony.

Friday, April 3

- Callback and Outstanding Lead information
- Lead Performer solo piano/vocal score
- One-page resume
- Headshot

Wednesday, April 15

4 p.m. Callback and final adjudication training at Proctors

Friday, April 17

- Nominee acceptance information
- Production photos due
- Full cast, crew, and orchestra due
- Supporting Performer and Outstanding Lead nominees

Saturday, April 18

10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Callbacks for Outstanding Lead Performers at Proctors

Monday, April 20

Outstanding Lead Performer nominees announced

Wednesday, April 29

4 p.m. Virtual Outstanding Lead meeting. All details and orchestrations finalized

Saturday, May 9 – Friday, May 15

Rehearsals for ceremony – detailed schedule coming soon

Saturday, May 16

7 p.m. HSMTA Ceremony at Proctors

Friday, June 12 - Tuesday, June 23

Jimmy Awards in NYC

(dates are subject to change and will be communicated by CSOA staff)

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