

Brooklyn Art Song Society Young Artist Program

Introduction

The Brooklyn Art Song Society (BASS) is thrilled to launch the inaugural season of its Young Artist Program in Fall 2026. Over its 15 seasons, BASS has become one of America's leading institutions for art song. As part of its mission to preserve and promote the art song tradition for today's audiences and future generations, BASS is establishing an internationally recognized program for early-career professional singers and pianists.

The Young Artist Program will:

- Provide participants with a unique, hands-on learning experience in art song and entrepreneurship
- Strengthen the field by training the next generation of exceptional art song performers
- Support BASS through understudy and work-study contributions

How It Works

Each season, BASS will select a roster of early-career singers and pianists through a rigorous and competitive application and audition process. Selected artists will serve as understudies for BASS's seasonal repertoire, learning the music and remaining on call in case of performer cancellations.

Program highlights include:

- Attendance at rehearsals
- Coaching and mentorship from BASS artists
- Outreach performances in partnership with Heights and Hills Senior Services
- Additional performance opportunities through masterclasses, house concerts, and monthly seminars with BASS and guest artists

Each Young Artist can also opt in to receive a monthly work-study stipend (\$300) and contribute to administrative tasks such as:

- Box office support
- Preparing texts and translations
- Stage management

The work-study component is designed to provide entrepreneurial training alongside performance experience.

Important Dates

- **Monday, September 15, 2025:** Applications open
- **Monday, November 3, 2025:** Application deadline
- **Monday, December 1, 2025:** Preliminary round results announced
- **Monday, December 15, 2025:** Deadline to accept audition invitation
- **Tuesday, December 16 2025:** Alternate candidates notified of potential openings
- **Friday, December 19, 2025:** Deadline for alternates to accept audition invitation
- **Saturday, January 10, 2026:** Rehearsals begin
- **Monday, January 12, 2026 – Friday, January 16, 2026:** Audition Week
- **Monday, February 2, 2026:** Audition results announced
- **Monday, February 16, 2026:** Deadline to accept admittance offer
- **Tuesday, February 17, 2026:** Alternate candidates notified of potential openings
- **Friday, February 20, 2026:** Deadline for alternates to accept admittance offer
- **Friday, October 2, 2026 – Sunday, June 13, 2027:** Program duration

[AUDITION WEEK DETAILS](#)

[FULL CALENDAR OF HELD DATES FOR 2026-2027 PROGRAM](#)

Candidate Requirements

- While there are no specific age restrictions, all candidates must, at the time of application, be in the final year of a master's program, completing coursework for a doctorate, or have completed their formal education. Please note that the program is intended for emerging professional artists—not those still engaged in general training or those with established careers.
- Candidates must be available to be in Brooklyn for one week each month leading up to every BASS program (October through June). Please refer to the complete calendar for the 2026–2027 season. While residency in the New York City area is not required, resources to assist with travel and housing for those living elsewhere will be very limited. Candidates are free to pursue other opportunities outside of these designated times.
- While international students are welcome to apply to the program, it is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that their current visa status permits participation.
- BASS is currently accepting applications for the following voice types: Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Bass-Baritone, and Piano. At this time, we are not accepting applications for Countertenors or Bass voices due to current repertoire needs.

-Candidates will be evaluated based on the core values of the Brooklyn Art Song Society's Young Artist Program, which are:

Excellence: The candidate demonstrates exceptional technical ability, precision, musicianship, and attention to detail in their performance.

Individuality: The candidate has a unique voice and uses their abilities to communicate a distinct musical perspective directly to an audience.

Professionalism: The candidate demonstrates an outstanding work ethic, personal habits of discipline, as well as congeniality and flexibility when working with colleagues.

Versatility: The candidate excels in a diverse array of musical styles and exhibits deep musical curiosity and openness in their attitude.

Application Process:

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

Each Applicant Must Provide:

Basic Information

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Voice Type
- Contact Information

Background Materials

- Performance résumé or CV
- A complete list of performed art song repertoire
- A brief essay (maximum 250 words) addressing the following points:
 1. Summarize your experience with art song.
 2. Explain your particular interest in the art song repertoire.
 3. Discuss why you believe art song is an important art form in today's society.

Letters of Recommendation Each candidate must provide two references for this purpose. Applicants will provide contact information only in the application- references will be contacted by BASS at a later date.

Recorded Materials Recording Submission Guidelines Each candidate must submit video recordings of three songs, following the repertoire requirements below:

- Song 1: A German Lied

- Song 2: A French mélodie
- Song 3: A song by a living composer (English language preferred)

For repertoire guidance, please consult the [Recommended Audition Repertoire List](#). Candidates are encouraged to reach out to brooklynartsongsociety@gmail.com to confirm the appropriateness of repertoire not included on the list.

Important Information

- Submit your recordings as links to YouTube or Vimeo only.
- Ensure that your links are not password-protected and remain accessible for at least three months.
- Submit one song per link. Please do not upload longer recordings with time stamps or cues.
- Recordings must have been made within the past year..
- A single-camera format is preferred, except in the case of live recital streams.
- All performances must feature a live collaborator; pre-recorded accompaniments are not permitted.
- Include the following in each video description: your name, title of the work, and date of performance.

Application Fee

The application fee is \$20. This fee covers the administrative costs of the application and audition process, ensuring a fair and equitable evaluation of each candidate.

Regardless of the outcome, each applicant will:

- Be added to the email list to receive notifications when student comps become available for BASS concerts
- Receive constructive feedback from the video submission panel

Please submit your payment using the following link: [HERE](#) (Click the Donate button). Payment must be made prior to submitting your application. Applications submitted without payment will not be considered. All application fees are non-refundable.

Audition Process

Each candidate will present five (5) songs that meet the criteria outlined below. Candidates may perform their complete program in any order they choose. Please ensure your entire program is 20 minutes or less (including pauses)—otherwise, the panel may need to stop you for time.

Required Repertoire:

- One German Lied
- One French mélodie
- One song in English written before 1980
- One song by a living composer (any language)
- One song in a language other than German, French, or English

Note for Pianists:

All five selections must be in keys appropriate for a single singer, as you will be assigned one vocalist for your audition. Soprano or Baritone repertoire is strongly preferred.

For repertoire guidance, please consult the [Recommended Audition Repertoire List](#). Candidates are encouraged to reach out to brooklynartsongsociety@gmail.com to confirm the appropriateness of repertoire not included on the list.

Collaborator Information

Each candidate granted a live audition will be assigned a pianist or singer from the **BASS roster** to collaborate with. Candidates will receive a **one-hour rehearsal** in the days leading up to the audition. This rehearsal will be considered an integral part of the audition process.

Young Artist Program Advisory Committee

- **Michael Brofman**, Program Director
- **Dominic Armstrong** (University of South Carolina)
- **Michael Kelly**
- **Joel Harder** (Manhattan School of Music)
- **Kate Maroney** (Mannes)
- **Amy Owens** (Santa Fe Opera)
- **Jennifer Zetlan** (Mannes)