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January
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2023
DIVA
QUEST

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School

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featuring performances by

The Gebel Girls • The Riverport Chorus

2020 Diva Quest Winner **Loriann Bowdish**

and the

2023 TOP 10 DIVA QUEST FINALISTS



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Welcome to Diva Quest!

What's Diva Quest?

Diva Quest is a vocal scholarship competition for young women in high school who want to showcase their vocal abilities and earn money for school. Since 2007, this scholarship competition has been helping young women cultivate their vocal skills with an emphasis on promoting personal growth and self-confidence.



Determining the Top 10

Open auditions for Diva Quest are held every year from August through November. Once auditions are completed, the judges carefully collaborate and select the ten best contestants to compete in the Diva Quest show the following January/February. After the top ten are notified, rehearsals begin. Each contestant meets with the Diva Quest coaching team to help her select a song that best showcases her ability. After that, the contestants meet with the coaching team weekly to rehearse and prepare for the show.

Tonight's Competition

Each contestant will perform one song tonight. The winners will be determined by a combination of audience votes (20%) and a panel of four judges (80%). The judges will critique each performance using a 10 point scale (10 being perfect) in five different areas: 1) Song Choice; 2) Intonation; 3) Tone Flow; 4) Vocal Style; 5) Visual Presentation. Cash scholarships will be awarded at the end of the night to the top five finishers in tonight's competition.

Judges

Tonight's judges are: **Melissa Grandi-Statz, Jenny Hoffman, Jodi Karow & Beth Malliet**. Thanks to each of them for contributing their time and talents toward making Diva Quest 2023 a success! Best wishes to all finalists tonight. Be sure to show them your love and appreciation with hearty applause and support. They have worked hard and we appreciate all of the finalists' talent & dedication!

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About Riverport



The Riverport Chorus consists of approximately 35 women of all ages from across southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois who love to sing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are part of an international organization of more than 20,000 women called Sweet Adelines International. We sing, we dance, we laugh out loud - all on a Monday night!

Riverport rehearses every Monday night at 7 pm at the Wilmot Union High School Choir Room (11112 308th Ave, Entrance A) in Wilmot. In addition to being the founding sponsor and presenter of Diva Quest, Riverport routinely performs in public, puts on an annual cabaret, and competes in a regional competition.



Gebel Girls



gebelgirls.com

The Gebel Girls are a family duo from Burlington, Wisconsin who sing pop, country, rock, alternative, and many more genres of music while accompanying themselves on the piano. Their powerhouse vocals will fill a room with famous covers from artists such as, Heart, Amy Winehouse, Paramore, Billy Joel, Alicia Keys, Miranda Lambert, and many more! They play locally in Walworth County but often travel elsewhere in Wisconsin and Illinois for shows.

Usually a sister group, the Gebels grew up surrounded by music and musicians and being a part of bands together and separately. Unfortunately one of the sisters was unavailable tonight, so instead you'll be treated to a mother/daughter duo of Gebel Girls Micki & Micah tonight!





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Saluting the Diva Quest finalists,
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Tonight's Program

2023 Diva Quest Top Ten Finalists

Sing (arr. Mark Brymer)

Riverport Chorus

Let's Sing Again (arr. David Wright)

Somebody to Love (arr. June Dale)

Sweet Caroline (adpt. Patrick McAlexander)

2023 Diva Quest Contestants

Finalist #1 - **ATHENA GRIMES**

Finalist #2 - **KYLEIGH BUELOW**

Finalist #3 - **SERENA VÁSQUEZ**

Finalist #4 - **MAYA O'DAY-BIDDLE**

Finalist #5 - **EMILY SELF**

Finalist #6 - **NORAH PEREGRIN**

Finalist #7 - **DANIELLE GIBSON**

Finalist #8 - **MEREDITH SULLIVAN**

Finalist #9 - **KENDRA MEYER**

Finalist #10 - **XITZEL SEPULVEDA**

- - *INTERMISSION* - -

Please cast your ballots, meet the finalists & visit our bake sale!

Gebel Girls

Loriann Bowdish

Swan Song Performance by our 2020 Diva Quest Winner

~ Announcement of Winners ~

Riverport Chorus, Loriann Bowdish & 2023 Divas

One Voice (arr. Joni Bescos)

2023 Diva Quest Finalists



Finalist
No. 1

ATHENA
Grimes

Athena Grimes has been playing in band since fourth grade and singing in the choir since fifth grade. A junior at Wilmot Union High School, she has always loved music and has a newfound love for the theater as well. Athena hopes to be a music major when she goes to college.



Finalist
No. 2

KYLEIGH
Buelow

A senior at Crystal Lake Central High School, Kyleigh Buelow is all about music. In addition to singing, she plays the french horn and the trumpet, and is hoping to study music education in college. Kyleigh is also a competitive show skier and an ice skating coach.

PLEASE NOTE

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2023 Diva Quest Finalists

SERENA Vásquez

Finalist
No. 3

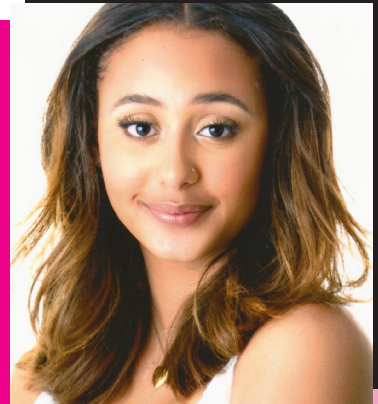
Growing up, Racine Horlick High School senior Serena Vasquez was always singing whatever was playing on the record player with her sister. After high school, she plans on going to college for vocal performance and hopes to one day work as a singer in the music industry. In addition to singing, Serena enjoys writing, theatre and spending time with her family.



MAYA O'Day-Biddle

Finalist
No. 4

Maya O'Day Biddle started appearing in productions at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Skylight Music Theatre, First Stage, and the Marcus Performing Arts Center at age 6. She is a sophomore at Whitnall High School and is also an aficionado of fashion, the arts and makeup. She hopes to attend an HBCU and become an entrepreneur.



2023 Diva Quest Finalists



Finalist
No. 5

EMILY
Self

A fan of music from the 1960s and older music, Emily Self is currently a sophomore at Antioch Community High School. She is passionate about the performing arts and bringing others joy through her performances makes Emily happy. Emily hopes to study psychology after high school so that she can help others.



Finalist
No. 6

NORAH
Peregrin

Wilmot Union High School sophomore Norah Peregrin sings on her church worship team and also loves harmonizing with her mom in the car. Although she plans to attend college, she's unsure of what she'll study. When she's not singing, you'll likely find Norah reading, drawing, painting, or working at her part-time job.

2023 Diva Quest Finalists

DANIELLE Gibson

Finalist
No. 7

Danielle Gibson credits her mother's love of singing for music being a big part of her life. This junior from Libertyville High School hopes to pursue musical theatre and mathematics in college. Her other hobbies include badminton, painting and swimming.



MEREDITH Sullivan

Finalist
No. 8

A guitar player since age 6 and a theater performer since age 7, it's no surprise that Meredith Sullivan loves the arts. She is currently a sophomore at Wilmot Union High School, and hopes to one day be an elementary school teacher and do photography on the side. Meredith also plays some piano and percussion and is currently called artistically to songwriting.



2023 Diva Quest Finalists



Finalist
No. 9

KENDRA
Meyer

Kendra Meyer, a freshman at Waukesha South High School, has grown up attending Diva Quest shows, and she would sing along to music 24/7 if she could. Kendra sings in her school's varsity choir and has participated in youth programs at the Waukesha Civic Theater.



Finalist
No. 10

XITZEL
Sepulveda

A Whitnall High School junior, Xitzel Sepulveda loves almost everything about the performing arts. She enjoys singing as well as performing in musicals. Xitzel isn't sure yet what she wants to pursue in life after high school.

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2020 Diva Quest Champion

LORIANN

Bowdish

In February 2020, Loriann Bowdish was named the 2020 champion in her fourth year competing in Diva Quest. Loriann graduated from Alden-Hebron High school later that year in the midst of the pandemic, but has continued her passion for performing music. She loves playing guitar and the baritone ukulele while she sings, and her time in Diva Quest allowed her to learn new things about her voice and the capabilities she has. She continues to play all over the area, and enjoys bringing smiles to everyone's faces. Loriann performed at the Riverport Chorus cabaret last fall and also served as a mentor for this year's Diva Quest finalists. Riverport thanks Loriann for being an outstanding champion and proponent of Diva Quest!



Divas Quest Co-Chairs

Lisa Mushel & Sue Nelson

This mother/daughter team have been the co-chairs since the program's inception in 2007. They are very proud of how Diva Quest has grown and evolved over the years, and look forward to building on the over \$30,000 in scholarships that the program has awarded over the years. After a hiatus due to the pandemic, they are thrilled that Diva Quest is back!



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Credits

Diva Quest Planning Team & Mentors **Mindi Billock, Nicole Heyl, Susan Musgrave, Lisa Mushel & Sue Nelson**

Emcee **Brian Lynch**

Lights & Sound . . **Kevin Fay & Lisa Mushel**

Photographer **David Beckman**

Riverport Director **Laurel Peterson**

Riverport Team Manger . . **Julie Quesenberry**

Tickets **Sue Williams**

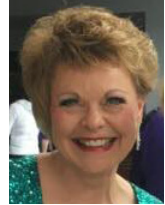
Treasurer & Bake Sale **Renee Juvan**

Videographer **Natalie LaVoie**

Voting & Judges Liaison **Connie Nold & Heather Pfalz**



*Diva Quest mentors
Mindi Billock &
Nicole Heyl*



*Diva Quest mentor
Susan Musgrave*

Riverport Chorus Members

Luella Billock	Jules Kuney	Lindsey Ramsak
Mindi Billock	June Lawlor	Rebecca Reckamp
Rozanne Bird	Greta Martin	Patti Schmidt
Sharon Bowe	Michele Meucci	Susan Stein
Lois Brennan	Susan Musgrave	Tammy Thomas
Diane Dunk	Holly Nagel	Sue Vandenboom
Audrey Finnigan	Connie Nold	Kirsten Velardo
Joey Freund	Sue Nelson	Debbie Waldron-Smith
Julie Fugate	Pat O'Dowd	Sue Williams
Dona Grebe	Diane Pawasarat	Lori Wolf
Nicole Heyl	Carolyn Perrine	Penny Yanke
Carol Hooper	Laurel Peterson	Linda Young
Renee Juvan	Julie Quesenberry	



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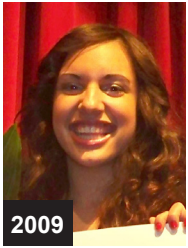
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Past Diva Quest Champions



2007 – **Chelsea Williams**



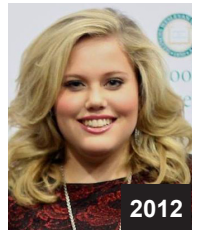
2008 – **Niccole Galvan**

2009 – **Arielle Hutchings**

2010 – **Kitchiana Howard**

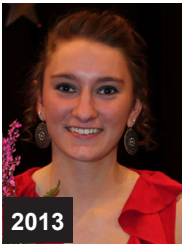


2011 – **Micah Gebel**

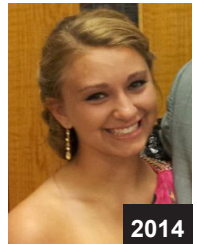


2012 – **Haley Miller**

2013 – **Hanna Lindell**

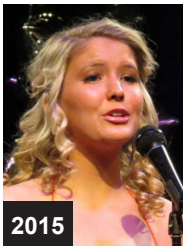


2014 – **Jenna Lindell**



2015 – **Rebecca Brewer**

2016 – **Marissa Lake**



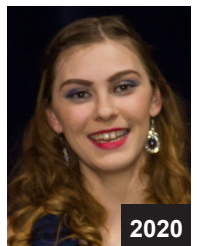
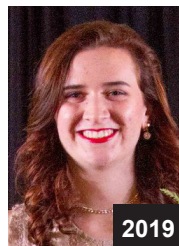
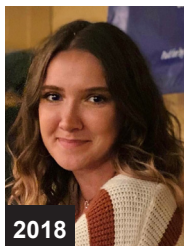
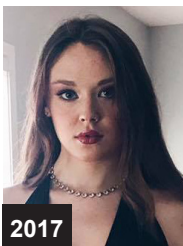
2017 – **Genevieve Heyward**

2018 – **Rachel Gebel**

2019 – **Liv Shreve**



2020 – **Loriann Bowdish**



Thank You...

In addition to our sponsors, judges, crew and Diva Quest team, we'd like to give a special shout-out to:

Penny Yanke & Burlington High School

Jaime Ivan, Jacob Ivan & Wilmot Union High School

Subway of Burlington

Our many family and friends

All of you for attending!



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Riverport member
DIANE PAWASARAT

wishes best of luck to
all of this year's divas!



Welcome New Members!

In the last six months, the Riverport Chorus is extremely fortunate to have had eight talented singers join our ranks. We're so excited to have all of you with us.

Enjoy your first Diva Quest with Riverport!



Luella Billock



Diane Dunk



Joey Freund



Jules Kuney



June Lawlor



Holly Nagel



Lindsey Ramsak



Lori Wolf





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