

Dear Area Choral Educators,

The Badlands Opera Project (BOP) invites your students to participate in our High School Vocal Solo Masterclass on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Dickinson State University. This event is designed to support and elevate students as they prepare for the NDHSAA Regional Vocal Solo Contest.

Badlands Opera Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Dickinson, dedicated to inspiring, educating, and engaging through music and storytelling.

Masterclass Overview

This one-day intensive class offers students individualized coaching from seasoned professionals:

- **Date:** Saturday, March 21, 2026
- **Location:** Dickinson State University, May Hall, Stickney Auditorium
- **Participants:** Up to 18 high school vocalists
- **Clinicians:**

Anthony Rohr – Director, educator, and performer

Joel Walters – Professional vocalist/pianist and educator

Kayla Kilwein – Executive Director of BOP and local vocalist/music instructor

Students will sing in a 20-minute masterclass setting, during either the morning session (**9:00 AM–12:00 PM**) or the afternoon session (**1:30 PM–4:30 PM**) while their peers observe. All students will attend both sessions to observe and support their peers, gaining additional insight from clinician feedback.

Students must have a memorized, performance-ready solo. An accompanist will be provided, or students may bring their own.

Evening Recital

All masterclass participants will perform in a public recital:

- **6:00 PM** – Student call & brief run-through
- **6:30 PM** – Doors open
- **7:00 PM** – Student Recital

- **Admission:** \$10 adults / \$5 students
(tickets will be available in advance at badlandsopera.org or at the door)

This recital allows students to showcase their hard work and gives the community a chance to experience and support the young musicians in our region.

Educational Benefits

This workshop is tailored to help students:

- Strengthen tone quality, musical phrasing, diction, breath management, and expressive artistry
- Build confidence and stage presence through a public performance
- Better understand NDHSAA adjudication expectations
- Learn by observing peers in a masterclass environment, broadening musical perspectives

While contest ratings cannot be guaranteed, students will leave with stronger technique, heightened confidence, and a richer understanding of their artistic potential.

No Cost to Students

Thanks to grant support and community funding, there is no cost to students.

Registration

Space is limited to 18 students, and early registration is recommended.

Please use the Google Form linked below to reserve your students' spots. A waiting list will be available once capacity is reached.

If students are still finalizing their solo selection, that's completely fine—they should register anyway. We will request final solo titles and copies of their sheet music a few weeks before the workshop.

<https://forms.gle/G2TvdjHCnjX6Aw9AA>

We appreciate your continued dedication to fostering musical growth in your programs. We hope this workshop will serve as a meaningful extension of your efforts and provide your students with an inspiring and enriching experience.

Kayla Kilwein

Executive Director, Badlands Opera Project
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badlandsopera.org