

## **VSA International Young Soloists Award** **2012 Application Guidelines**

Since 1984, the VSA International Young Soloists Program has been seeking to identify talented musicians who have a disability. The VSA International Young Soloists Award is given annually to up to four outstanding musicians, two from the United States and two from the international arena. The award provides an opportunity for these emerging musicians to each earn a \$5,000 award, professional development opportunities, and a performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

### ***Eligibility***

Any individual musician (instrumental or vocal) who is a U.S. citizen or legal resident, who has a disability, **age 14 to 25**, is eligible to apply as a domestic applicant.

Any individual musician (instrumental or vocal) from outside the United States, including citizens of other countries living in the U.S. such as those on student visas, who has a disability, age 14 to 25, is eligible to apply as an international applicant.

Applications from musical ensembles (two to five members) will be accepted for the VSA International Young Soloists Award. This includes any type of ensemble from a rock band to a chamber ensemble to a choral group. In order to be eligible, at least one member of the ensemble must have a disability. All members of the ensemble must be age 14-25.

All types of music will be accepted, including but not limited to Rock/Alt Rock, Pop, Indie, Classical, Country/Folk, Jazz, R&B/Blues, Hip Hop/Rap, Latin, and World.

As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, a disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. An impairment is a physiological disorder affecting one or more of a number of body systems, or a mental or psychological disorder.

### ***Selection Process and Adjudication Criteria***

An advisory panel comprised of music professionals and educators will assist with the selection process. These adjudicators will evaluate each audition recording in the areas of technique, tone, rhythm, interpretation, and intonation (when applicable).

### ***United States Affiliate Selection Process***

Many VSA affiliate organizations across the United States implement their own International Young Soloists Award programs. Applicants only need to submit their entry materials through the ArtsApp portal at [www.artsapp.com/kennedycenter-vsai](http://www.artsapp.com/kennedycenter-vsai). Personnel at the VSA affiliate organizations will be invited to review their respective state's applicants for the state-level evaluation. Entries from all states will be included in the national adjudication.

