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The view: From chapel hill

The Long Leaf Opera National Vocal Competition will continue today, and the finals will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Market Square in Southern Village. **Leandra Ramm**'s love of opera blossomed when she was 14 and won a competition in Iowa. "I like that you can really express yourself," she said. "I love music; I love singing; opera is a beautiful blend. It's one of the most beautiful art forms ever." Long Leaf Opera is based in Chapel Hill. The competition was open to singers between 20 and 35.

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"22-year-old Opera singer Leandra Ramm from New York City warms up in a side room before taking the stage and singing her songs in the semi-final competition of the inaugural Long Leaf Opera National Vocal Competition held at the Christ United Methodist Church in Southern Village Friday afternoon 7/28/06. A panel of judges narrowed a field of applicants down to 13 for this competition; They compete Friday and Saturday (1pm) at the Church; Sunday the finals are held at 1pm outdoors at the Market Square facility in Southern Village in Chapel Hill. The events are free and open to the public. Her love of opera blossomed when she was 14 and she won a competition in Iowa. "I like that you can really express yourself," she said of what she enjoys about being an opera singer. "I love music, I love singing; opera is a beautiful blend. It's one of the most beautiful art forms ever." Long Leaf Opera, a professional opera company based in Chapel Hill, opened the competition to singers between the ages of 20 and 35."

- The News & Observer Photo Spotlight

Staff Photo by Chris Seward

Long Leaf Opera Competition