

Youth Concerto Competition

Requirements and Guidelines

Application Deadline

November 8, 2026 11:59PM

Eligibility Requirements

Open to pianists, strings, winds, brass, and percussionists.

Junior Division: Students in grades 6-8

Senior Division: Students in grades 9-12

No restrictions on residential location but must be able to attend rehearsals in Santa Clarita starting in late January or early February.

Audition Requirements

ROUND 1: Auditioners should submit a recording of their audition piece. See below for recording and submissions requirements. Alternatively, if a quality recording cannot be made, auditioners may perform their concerto at the location below to be recorded and submitted to the judging panel. Audition pieces must be less than 12 minutes in length (may perform more than one movement). An accompanist may be used but is not required.

Recordings must be submitted via this [FORM](#) by 11:59 PM on **November 8th, 2026.**

ROUND 2: January 10th, 2027 In-person at the Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church. Candidates who attend the second round will receive comments from the judges.

Audition Information for Live Recording

Location: Santa Clarita Music Lab, 26881 Ruether Ave, Santa Clarita, CA 91351. Applicants may arrange a recording time directly with Santa Clarita Music Lab at 661-990-9757 or santaclarita@musiclab.co

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Recording Requirements

I. Performance and Editing Requirements

- **Single, Unedited Take:** The performance segment of your piece must be recorded in one continuous, uninterrupted take from start to finish.
- **No Editing:** Absolutely no audio or video editing, cuts, splices, pitch correction, or sound enhancements (like reverb) are permitted within the performance itself.
- **Time Limit:** Must strictly adhere to the competition's maximum time limit (e.g., 12 minutes). The judges will stop watching when the time is up.

II. Video and Framing Requirements

- **Stationary Camera:** The video device must remain steady on a tripod or stable surface. No panning, zooming, fading, or use of multiple camera angles.
- **Framing:** The camera must be positioned to capture you, your instrument, and your full range of motion throughout the entire performance.
- **Judges must clearly see your face/head and your technique** (fingers, bowing, embouchure, etc.).
- **The music stand should not block your face or hands/instrument.**
- **Orientation:** If using a phone or tablet, record in landscape (horizontal) orientation.
- **Lighting:** Film in a well-lit space. The primary light source (window, lamp, etc.) should be in front of you (behind the camera), not behind you (to avoid a dark silhouette).

III. Audio and Environment Requirements

- **Clarity and Balance:** The sound must be clear, audible, and accurately represent your tone and dynamics.
- **No Distortion/Clipping:** Test the audio levels beforehand to ensure the sound does not distort or "peak" during the loudest passages, but that the softest passages can still be heard.
- **Quiet Environment:** Record in a quiet space free of ambient noise (traffic, heating/AC, chatter, pets, etc.).
- **External Mic (Recommended):** While not always required, using an external microphone is strongly encouraged to achieve better sound quality than a device's built-in mic.
- **If using an external mic,** avoid playing or singing directly into it.
- **Acoustics:** Record in a room with a pleasant, natural acoustic. Avoid small rooms with excessive echo or large, overly-reverberant spaces.

IV. Submission/Technical Format

- **File Name:** Name the video file or link clearly using the competition's required format (e.g., Instrument_LastName_FirstName_Composer_PieceTitle).
- **Technical Check:** Watch and listen to the entire video you intend to submit.



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AWARDS

JUNIOR DIVISION – GRADES 6 THROUGH 8

1 winner

3 honorable mentions

SENIOR DIVISION - GRADES 9-12

3 winners

one from each category winds/brass/percussion,
strings, piano

3 honorable mentions

Concerto Competition Winners Concert:

Winners in each division will perform with the
Santa Clarita Symphony Orchestra in the Spring
Concert

Date TBD