



Young Artist Competition Rules

First Place winners will perform with the Big Bend Community Orchestra and will receive a \$100 cash award!

Winners in the Age 15-18 and 11-14 categories will perform with the orchestra.

The Age 7-10 winner will perform with string quartet and optional piano.

Second Place winners will receive a \$50 cash award! Cash prizes will be presented at the Spring BBCO concert. The concert location is Turner Auditorium on the campus of TSC.

Competition Rules and Information

1. The competition is open to instrumentalists who play violin, viola, cello, string bass, guitar, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, harp, piano, or percussion.
2. Candidates must reside in Leon, Calhoun, Gadsden, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, or Wakulla counties in Florida or in Brooks, Colquitt, Decatur, Grady, Lowndes, Mitchell, Thomas, or Seminole counties in Georgia.
3. The competition is open to musicians in grades 1–12 whose ages fit within one of the competition's three categories, based on the age of the applicant at the time of the competition: Age 7-10, 11-14, or 15-18.
4. The applicant may enter on only one instrument per year. First-place winners are disqualified from participating in the year immediately following their award, unless the applicant's age in the following year allows him/her to compete in the next age-level category.
5. Students who are entering as a duo, trio, or small ensemble, must each complete the registration form and pay the non-refundable application fee. The monetary prize for winning would be shared among each of the students in the duo, trio, or small ensemble.
6. A non-refundable application fee of \$20.00 must accompany each entry form. This non-refundable application fee is payable online at https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_donations&business=info@bigbendcommunityorchestra.com&item_name=Young%20Artist%20Competition%20Fee&no_note=0&amount=20&undefined_quantity=1
7. Entry forms and fees must be received online (<https://bigbendcommunityorchestra.org/>) no later than January 23rd.

8. Instrumental performers should prepare a movement/movements of a major work for their instrument; an orchestral accompaniment reduction must be available/utilized. Music must be scored for orchestral accompaniment for the performance (string quartet + optional piano for Age 7-10 applicants). If the work is not from the standard body of orchestral repertoire, a score of the full orchestral accompaniment for the selected movement(s) must be presented for the judges' review at the competition. Selections with orchestral parts available only via rental are not eligible. Parts must be either: available on IMSLP, available for borrowing locally, OR available for immediate purchase at a reasonable cost. Specific inquiries may be directed to the competition chair.
9. Competitors must perform the selection indicated on their Application Form. Substitutions are not allowed. The applicant must be prepared to play, in its final form, the concerto or movement(s) that he/she wishes to perform.
10. The applicant is required to bring two scores of the soloist's part for the judges' use during the competition. If the edition of the music is in the public domain, copies or print-outs from the internet are acceptable.
11. Mark any cuts with sticky notes.
12. Competition performance will not exceed thirteen minutes. If playing time is longer than the time allotted, the judges will terminate the performance without disqualifying the participant. Accompanists should take appropriate cuts in tutti sections. When choosing repertoire, please keep in mind that the conductor has the right to cut the piece to fit programming requirements.
13. Candidates must provide their own accompanist to play the orchestral accompaniment reduction for the competition, OR notify the BBCO on the application form of the need to utilize the BBCO's accompanist. (If playing a piano concerto, you will still need the orchestral accompaniment.)
14. Bonus points will not be given for playing the audition from memory.
15. Each contestant must arrive at least fifteen minutes prior to the assigned audition time on the day of competition. Being late may result in forfeiture of the contestant's competition time slot. Entry fees will not be refunded.
16. The decision of the competition chair and/or judges is final on all matters relating to the competition. If, in the opinion of the judges, no contestant is qualified in any category, any of the awards may be withheld. Judging sheets will be emailed to participants within a week after the audition.
17. Winners must be present at the February concert for the award presentations.
18. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Space may be limited.
19. Applicants will be notified of their competition time slot by BBCO, no later than January 27th.

Updated 10/27/25