

2026 SPPTA Concerto Competition

CONCERTO COMPETITION – Preliminary and Final rounds:

Saturday, December 5, 2026

Bloomington Schmitt Music Auditorium
7800 Harmony Dr., Bloomington, MN 55439

WINNER'S CONCERT with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra:

Sunday, April 4th, 2027 at 3:00 pm

Bethel University Benson Great Hall
3900 Bethel Dr., St Paul, MN 55112

The SPPTA Concerto Competition is open for any age student through high school to perform an accompanied concerto movement, receive two judge critiques, and compete for the opportunity to perform in concert with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra. Following the preliminary round performances, six individuals are selected as finalists to perform again in the evening. At the close of the finals round, cash prizes are awarded to the musicians placing 3rd, 2nd, and 1st, and the winner earning the privilege to perform their same concerto movement in concert with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra, is announced.

Awards

1st Place - \$250 and Concert Soloist

2nd Place - \$150

3rd Place - \$100

Registrations will be accepted between September 1st and October 15th, 2026.

The registration fee is \$50 per student for SPPTA Members, \$75 per student for non-members, and is waived for MusicLink students when the teacher's MusicLink ID is noted on the registration form.

Competition Preliminaries: Saturday, December 5, 2026, approximately 10:30am-5:00pm

Competition Finals: Saturday, December 5, 2026 from 6:30pm-8:30pm, doors open at 6:15pm.

(Start time may be adjusted later during years with higher event participation, and will be confirmed when the preliminary playing times are assigned.)

CONCERTO COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS are on the next pages, followed by the Registration form

CONCERTO COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1. Registration limits** The SPPTA Concerto Competition accommodates up to twenty-four students. Any registrations received beyond this amount will be placed in a lottery to establish alternates in the case of cancellations. Teachers with more than one student in the lottery will have the opportunity to rank them. Registration forms must be postmarked by October 15th to be accepted.
- 2. Fee.** \$50 per student for SPPTA members; \$75 per student for non-members. Payment must be made by the teacher payable to SPPTA. This fee is waived for MusicLink students when the teacher's MusicLink ID is noted on the registration form. Refunds are given only if students are unable to participate due to program capacity or event cancellation.
- 3. Eligibility.** This competition is open to any student through grade 12. The teacher must complete and sign the registration form and take care of all the details. If a student has transferred teachers within the last 6 months, please note the previous teacher's name, so we can honor both teaching contributions. While a student who has won the competition may continue to participate in subsequent years to receive the judges' critiques, he/she cannot be awarded 1st place again.
- 4. Repertoire.** Teachers may choose any concerto. A full movement must be prepared. Please note that each time a student participates in the competition, a different movement or concerto must be performed. Concerto selections cannot be changed after the registration deadline. A list of some suggested concerto is available for download at the SPPTA website at the bottom of the Concerto Competition page:
https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/a1f45167-e11d-4dc7-acef-67fc75514fda/downloads/1clhj3v3a_691901.pdf?ver=1629774276978
- 5. Time Limits.** A student's performance time at the preliminary auditions may not exceed ten (10) minutes and should be one (1) movement, except as noted on the suggested concerto list. Finalists may expand their playing time to no more than twelve (12) minutes. The teacher should make and clearly mark all appropriate cuts in the tutti so the student can play as much of the movement as possible, allowing time for the entire cadenza to be heard. Each student must play the same movement for the final auditions as was played for the preliminaries.
- 6. Finalists' Concert.** At the judges' discretion, a maximum of six (6) students will be chosen to play in the final auditions. A winner may or may not be chosen.
- 7. First-Place Winner.** The first-place winner must be available to rehearse and perform with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra. Once a student has won, he/she will not be awarded 1st place again in subsequent years, even if he/she was unable to perform with the orchestra when selected.
- 8. Accompanist.** A student must provide his/her own accompanist.
- 9. Music for Judge.** Each student must provide clean, non-photocopied music for the judge. Printed public domain pieces are acceptable. Make sure pencil marks are erased, and measures are neatly numbered. Mark all cuts clearly (sticky notes, paper clips, etc.) to ensure the judges can easily follow the performance.
- 10. Cadenzas.** Cadenzas may be photocopied. Number all measures.

11. Contestant Minimum. In the event of low registration numbers, the program may not be offered.

12. Audition Format. All auditions must be done in person, on the date of the competition. No other form of performance submission will be accepted unless the event is forced to be virtual, in which case all auditions will be submitted by YouTube video, four days or more before the competition.

13. Open to the Public. Both preliminary and final auditions are open to the public, and all participants are encouraged to attend the finalists' evening auditions.

14. Videotaping. From a location that does not impact the judges' ability to clearly see the stage, a parent may videotape their own child's performance, but not the performance of any other participant.

15. Communication with the Judges. Aside from a greeting when entering the room, no student, parent, or teacher may communicate with the judges at any time. If you have any questions or concerns about the event, please speak with the concerto competition coordinator. No one is allowed to discuss performance details with the judges, and the decision of the judges is final.

16. Memorization. While memorization is not required to participate in the preliminary round and receive the judges' critiques, only those individuals performing their concerto memorized will be considered as possible finalists.

17. Disqualification. Please review these guidelines well, and discuss them with your students and student families, as infractions of these rules will result in disqualification.

Registrations are accepted September 1st – October 15th.

Register and pay online at:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/SaintPaulPianoTeachers/2026SPPTAConcertoCompetitionRegistrationForm>

or, Register and pay via mail by sending registration forms to:

Beverly Olson,

Attn: Concerto Competition

1017 Glen Paul Court,

Shoreview, MN 55126

Beverly can be reached at Bev@BenchandBow.com and (651) 341-0353 if you have questions.

Checks should be made payable to SPPTA.

REGISTRATION FORM follows on the next page

2026 SPPTA Concerto Competition Registration Form

This year's concerto competition will be on Saturday, December 5th, 2026. Both the preliminary and final rounds will be at the Bloomington Schmitt Music auditorium at 7800 Harmony Dr., Bloomington, MN 55439.

You can register for the concerto competition online at www.sppta.org, or via mail with this form.

Registrations are accepted September 1st through October 15th. Mail forms to:

Beverly Olson, ATTN: Concerto Competition, 1017 Glen Paul Ct., Shoreview, MN 55126

To contact her with questions or concerns please use: Bev@BenchAndBow.com and/or (651) 341-0353

Please include one registration form for each student, and pay for all participants with a single check.

Assigned playing times, confirmation letters, critiques and other communications will be sent via email unless you note here that "mail is preferred." _____

Registration Fee:

_____ \$50 per student of an SPPTA member (check payable to SPPTA from the teacher)

_____ \$75 per student of a non-SPPTA member (check payable to SPPTA from the teacher)

_____ Fee waived for MusicLink student. Teacher's MusicLink ID: _____

Contestant Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Concerto Name & Number _____ Movement _____

Composer _____

☐ **I verify that this student has not performed this concerto movement previously at this competition.**

The teacher should make and clearly mark all appropriate cuts in the tutti so the student can play as much of the movement as possible, allowing time for the entire cadenza to be heard.

Preliminary length (10 min max) _____ Finals time Length (12 min max) _____

Time of day preference: (Efforts are made to accommodate requests, but preferences are not guaranteed.)

_____ No preference _____ 10am-Noon _____ Noon-3pm _____ 3pm-5pm

Notes: _____

Accompanist's Name _____ and email _____

Teacher's Name _____

Teacher's Address _____

Teacher's email _____ Phone number _____

Former teacher's name (if within 6 months) _____

If a student has transferred to you, please note the previous teacher's name so we can honor both of your contributions.