

I. Eligibility

A. Age – This competition is open to students who are 19 years old or younger during the 2023-2024 school year.

B. Location – Symphony North, Inc. serves the Greater Houston Metropolitan area; therefore, we require the applicant to live or study in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area, including Harris County, Texas, and the surrounding contiguous counties.

C. Category – The judge(s) may select a 1st place winner and 2nd place runner-up from any of the orchestral music disciplines. The available categories are strings, winds, piano, organ, and percussion.

D. Music – An applicant may submit one movement of a classical concerto work, or a similarly challenging popular work of music pending the availability of the music and feasibility of performance as determined by the active music librarian of the orchestra, in conjunction with available libraries maintained and made available to us by our partners and collaborative associations within our community. Preapproval of the selection is not necessary.

E. Previous Winners – This is an annual competition – winners of the prior year’s competition shall be ineligible to enter the subsequent year’s competition, but would be eligible to enter the following year’s competition (i.e. after the one-year ineligibility period), subject to all other qualifications of entry.

II. Procedure

A. Complete an online application at <https://yac.symphonynorth.org/> and submit a non-refundable entry fee of \$35, which is also payable online. The deadline for completing the online application and entry fee must be submitted by Saturday, December 23, 2023, midnight CST.

B. The audio or video URL or link to the digitally stored recording on a server or audio/video platform of the concerto movement must be included with the online application.

From these digitally stored recordings, a group of finalists will be selected by a judging panel comprised of not less than three or more qualified judges. Only finalists will be notified of this decision. [NOTE: It is to your advantage that your URL point to a HD digital recording. For the recording, if you use a stereo recorder, place the soloist and accompanist on separate channels. If you use a monophonic recorder, place the soloist much closer to the microphone than the accompanist.]

C. Finalists will audition before a duly qualified judge's panel on **Saturday, January 27, 2024**, at **to be determined**. Performance times to be scheduled in twenty (20) minute increments beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 12:00 p.m. (noon). Each finalist will be scheduled for an audition performance and should plan to arrive at least 20 minutes before their scheduled performance time. Rehearsal rooms will be available to tune, warm-up, or to otherwise become acclimated to the venue and prepare. **Auditions must be performed with a piano accompanist, who is to be provided by the finalist.** No less than three (3) copies of the solo part, with measure numbers marked, must be provided for the judge's panel.

Should a chosen finalist fail or refuse to perform for any reason, the next ranking finalist will be elevated to that finalist's placement.

III. Performance

Winners will perform with Symphony North of Houston at their Late Spring Concert on **Sunday, April 21, 2024**. The winners will be required to be in attendance by 2:45 pm for a 3:00 call and 4:00 performance at Salem Lutheran Church, 22601 Lutheran Church RD, Tomball, TX 77377. Rehearsals will also be at Salem Lutheran Church on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm.

If selected as a winner, the following rehearsal dates are mandatory and attendance is required (when practicable, winners will be rehearsed at the earliest possible time during these rehearsals):

Rehearsal: **Monday, April 8, 2024 @ 7:30 pm** at Salem Lutheran Church

Rehearsal: **Monday, April 15, 2024 @ 7:30 pm** at Salem Lutheran Church

Dress Rehearsal: **Friday, April 19, 2024 @ 7:30 pm** at Salem Lutheran Church

Failure to be present for these mandatory rehearsals or the performance will result in

automatic disqualification from the competition and concomitant forfeiture of any and all winner awards, prizes, publicity, and recognition.

IV. Other Information

- A. If you have any questions, call or e-mail Symphony North at (281) 803-9127 or info@symphonynorth.org.
- B. All dates are firm. In fairness to all applicants, strict adherence to all rules and dates are essential and are conditions precedent to participating in and winning the competition.
- C. All decisions of the audition committee/judge's panel are final.
- D. Be sure to review and comply in strict and absolute accordance with the following checklist:
 - I have completed the online application
 - I have submitted a URL or link to my digitally stored recording with piano or orchestra accompaniment of the work to be performed
 - I have submitted the requisite entry fee of \$35.00.
 - I have read and acknowledge the mandatory finalist performance and subsequent rehearsal and concert dates should my I be selected as a finalist and then as a 1st or 2nd place winner.