

Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras
Young Artist Competition Policies
Draft March 2023

Timing

- MASO Young Artist competition occurs in January of odd-numbered years
 - Question: should we define when more specifically (2nd saturday?)
- Preliminary round application and audio recordings are due in the preceding November
- Panel of three MASO member orchestra music directors serve as judges of the preliminary round and select finalists for the final round of the competition
- Finalist selection should be complete by mid-December
- Specific dates for shall be established by October 1st preceding the competition

Competition Eligibility

Age and Student Status

- The competition is divided into three age bracket categories
- A student's age or student status at the time of the competition finals shall be used to determine bracket in which a student competes
- Groups:
 - Junior: Ages 13-15
 - Senior: Ages 16-high school senior
 - College: full-time enrollment in first undergraduate degree

Montana Residency

- Competition entrants must have at least one of the following connections to Montana at time of the competition finals to be eligible:
 - Legal resident of Montana, OR
 - Full-time student at Montana university

Tax and Legal Status

- Competition entrants must be able to provide MASO with 1099 or other similar documentation for tax purposes
- Competition entrants must be able to prove legal residency in the United States

Competition Entrant Expectations

1. Preliminary round audition recordings shall be accompanied and audio only.
2. Finalists must perform works from memory for the final round.
3. Entrants are encouraged to select a concerto that has readily available orchestral accompaniment. Works must be in the public domain or available for rental or purchase.
4. Entrants must ensure their availability and arrange for their own piano accompanist for the final round of the competition.
5. All finalists must participate live in the final round of the competition. No exceptions will be made for any reason.

Competition Judging Procedures

1. The decisions of both the preliminary and the final round judges are final.
2. Preliminary round judges will not be expected to provide feedback or rationale for their decisions.
3. Final round judges will use a confidential comment form provided by MASO. Judges will submit these forms to the MASO executive director at the conclusion of the competition finals. The MASO executive director will provide final round contestants with anonymized comments from judges' forms.
4. Final round judges may select up to a single winner, runner-up, and honorable mention from each age group category. Judges may choose not to award any of the three prizes in each bracket if they agree that there is no suitable performance to award.
5. The final round judges shall confer and select the winner, runner-up, and honorable from each age group category immediately upon the conclusion of each age group round.
6. The final round judges and entrants shall have no direct contact regarding the competition either before or after the competition.

Winner Presentation

1. The winner of each age bracket is guaranteed a solo performance opportunity with a MASO member orchestra within the two seasons following the competition finals. A winner may voluntarily decline the performance opportunity.
2. Runners-up and honorable mention winners may also be presented as soloists.
3. Within a month of the final round, MASO member music directors shall confer to decide when the winners of each age bracket will be programmed. The music director representative on the MASO management committee will coordinate this process.
4. YAC winners may appear with multiple MASO member orchestras. However, the music directors should ensure that all bracket winners are programmed for a performance before presenting one winner more than once or a runner-up or honorable mention finalist.
5. MASO will pay the music-related costs for the first performance of a YAC winner with a MASO member orchestra if the repertoire selection performed by the winner is the same as the selection performed during the competition. For reimbursement of costs, orchestras should submit rental and shipping receipts to the MASO executive director following the performance.
6. MASO will not pay for music costs associated with presenting a runner-up winner or honorable mention winner. Additionally, MASO will not pay for music costs associated with presenting a winner if they do not perform the repertoire with which they won.
7. MASO member orchestras are encouraged to provide housing, travel stipend, or further artist fee compensation to winners being presented as soloists.