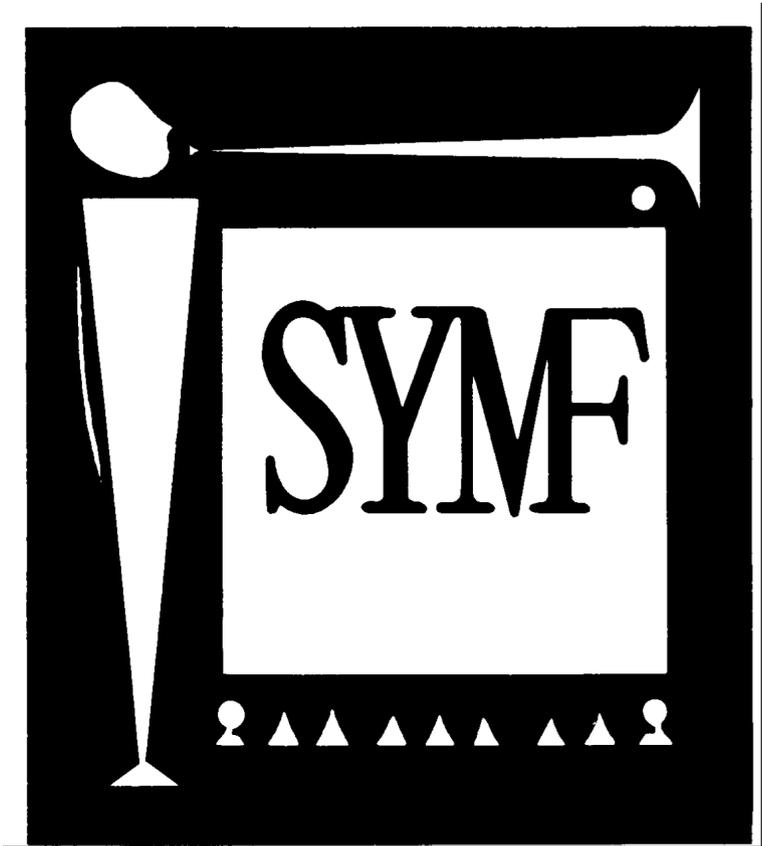


Southwestern Youth Music Festival
Rules & Regulations Booklet
(Revised and issued 3/2026)
(revisions/additions are shown in red)



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Southwestern Youth Music Festival

Purpose

Southwestern Youth Music Festival (SYMF), a California non-profit corporation, is an independent, teacher-sponsored musical competition presented annually during the summer for the purpose of encouraging the study of music, creating performance opportunities and enriching the cultural vitality of the community.

Funding

Support of SYMF is entirely through teacher membership fees, student entry fees, advertising and contributions.

Membership

Teachers entering students in the Festival are required to hold a membership. Membership fee is set by the Board and applies to a SYMF fiscal year starting November 1. Membership fee is due May 1 of each Festival year. Memberships received after that date will be subject to a late charge. All membership applications are subject to approval by the SYMF Board. New members - or those who rejoin after letting their membership lapse - will be assessed a processing fee. All fees are non-refundable.

Memberships are divided into two categories:

1. Individual

A. Festival membership is available to an individual music teacher.

B. Individual teachers must agree to the listing of their name in all SYMF publications.

2. School/Studio

A. A School/Studio shall be defined as a business that is licensed or has a permit to operate by the agency that governs the corporate limits in which it is located.

B. Two or more teachers who are consistently using and sharing the same physical facilities.

C. One teacher under whose name assistant, associate or student teachers are working.

D. A teacher affiliated with a School/Studio must still pay the annual SYMF membership dues and any processing fee.

E. School/Studio must agree to the listing of its name, as well as the name of each faculty member who has joined SYMF, in all SYMF publications.

F. Teachers who wish to enter students under the name of a School/Studio must also hold a personal, individual membership if they wish to enter their other students not enrolled at School/ Studio.

Student Entry Fees

Entry fees are indicated in the entry information and are structured by the Board of Directors. All fees are non-refundable.

Contributions

Contributions in support of the Festival are tax deductible and may be donated to the Festival at any time.

Rules & Regulations

1. The use of photocopied music for any purpose - except for original, hand written compositions - is prohibited; student will be disqualified. Accompanists MUST have original music. Photocopies may NOT given to judges or used by performers. This is for all instruments. Remember: duo/duet and ensemble music performers must not bring photocopied music. Please call SYMF regarding permanently out-of-print or hand-written original scores. Sheet music downloaded from the internet is NOT permitted.
2. Each student entering the Festival must submit, at the time of registration, a copy of a proof of age document to be used in the event of an age discrepancy occurring at the Festival. It is the responsibility of the teacher to insure that the student's age is entered correctly (see rule #3, 4). These documents will be mailed back to the teacher at the end of the Festival.
3. Students enter the Festival according to their age on August 1.
4. Any errors in entering students are the sole responsibility of the teacher.
5. No student may enter the Festival under more than one teacher on the same solo instrument.
6. A student may enter either Open or Qualified categories, not both, in the same Festival year.
7. All entrants must provide the music they will be performing for the judges. A student not presenting music will be disqualified.
8. **Memorization:** All audition material for all instruments in solo categories must be performed from memory. **Memorization is also required for the Piano Open Duet (P OD) and the Concerti for Multiple Soloists (CMS) categories. Memorization is OPTIONAL for Wind Qualified (W Q), Piano Qualified Duet (P QD), Ensemble (En) and Duo/Duet (D) categories.** No photocopied music allowed.
9. A student entered in more than one category must use different repertoire for each category or be disqualified.
10. Students may enter only three performance categories with the same instrument. (Students may enter only one Open Solo or Qualified Solo category in the same year.)

11. All entrants must supply their own accompanists. All works originally written with a piano accompaniment must be performed with piano accompaniment. All works originally written to be accompanied by a chamber ensemble, chamber orchestra, or orchestra must be performed with piano reduction accompaniment.
12. Teachers may not accompany or turn pages for their own students. This applies in all categories and to all instruments.
13. Teachers and accompanists need to resolve any audition schedule conflict prior to the start of the Festival.
14. No ensemble player may compete against him or herself in the same category.
15. In all duet/duo and ensemble categories students are entered by the age of oldest student. Performers in duo/duet or ensemble groups must be entered by only one SYMF teacher-member. Only that teacher will be mentioned on the winners' list.
16. Any awards to be given will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.
17. Categories with 22 or more entrants may be split into two separate categories. Young Pianist categories are an exception to this rule.
18. No First Place winner may re-enter the same or lower age category the year following their First Place win. They must wait out one Festival year before re-entering the same age category. The exception is in the Young Violinist/Violist, Cellist and Wind categories when the 1st place winner is NOT chosen to perform with the orchestra.
19. All orchestra rehearsals are closed. No video or audio recording is allowed for orchestra rehearsals and performances.
20. Decisions of the judges are final.
21. Judges do not have to name any place winners. There will be no honorable mentions or ties.

22. Adjudicators have the right to stop students at any time during the audition. Adjudicators may ask an entrant to skip to a different section of a piece. If a piece exceeds the category's time limit, the student will be stopped but it will not impact the decision of the judges.

23. Judges are not permitted to divulge to students or teachers the results of any contests. Advance announcement will disqualify the student.

24. Judges are prohibited personal contact with students, teachers or parents before, during and after the Festival. Teachers, parents and students are prohibited personal contact with the judges before, during and after the Festival. All communications with the student during the competition must be done through the Room Captain.

25. Teachers must avoid by word or action revealing their identity or the identity of their students or the students of other teachers. Teachers may not assist their students in the audition room.

26. Students must be present at the Awards Recital to receive their Awards.

27. Judges' worksheets will remain the property of the Southwestern Youth Music Festival and are not available to teachers or students.

28. All scheduling matters both before and during the Festival are conducted solely between the teacher and SYMF. Schedule changes must not be requested or discussed with room captains or judges at anytime.

29. During auditions no photography or audio/video recording of any kind is allowed. All electronic devices including cell phone and tablets must be turned off during auditions.

30. During awards recitals parents may only record their own child.

31. Outside of the Festival days, the line of communication is only through the teacher and the Executive Director of the SYMF.

32. Cuts are not allowed, unless noted in the SYMF repertoire booklets/list. Cuts are allowed in tutti sections of the piano accompaniment.

Some Composers Who Were Born in the United States

This is a list of some composers who were born in the United States, but not a complete listing. Those composers with a (*) after their name were still living after 1952. Other composers who were born in the U. S. are eligible. Students may enter American Music categories using a composer's original hand-written score. A photocopy of a hand-written score is acceptable. Photocopies of printed scores are not acceptable. Call SYMF regarding the use of Internet printed or permanently out of print original scores.

Albright, William*	Finney, Ross Lee*	Panetti, Joan
Antheil, George*	Floyd, Carlisle*	Perle, George
Babbitt, Milton*	Gershwin, George	Perschetti, Vincent*
Bacon, Ernst*	Gould, Morton*	Piston, Walter*
Barber, Samuel*	Griffes, Charles	Raphling, Sam*
Bauer, Marion*	Griffis, Elliot*	Riegger, Wallingford*
Beach, Mrs. H.F.A.	Hanson, Howard*	Rochberg, George*
Beeson, Jack	Harris, Roy*	Rorem, Ned*
Bernstein, Leonard*	Harrison, Lou*	Rubinstein, Charles
Bernstein, Seymour*	Haubiel, Charles*	Rzewski, Frederic
Bergsma, William*	Helps, Robert*	Schloss, Julius
Bialosky, Marshall*	Hovhaness, Alan*	Schumann, William*
Binkerd, Gordon	Hudson, Joseph	Seeger, Ruth Crawford
Biscardi, Chester	Imbrie, Andrew	Sessions, Roger*
Cage, John*	Ives, Charles*	Shapey, Ralph
Carpenter, John	Joplin, Scott	Shifrin, Seymour
Carter, Elliot*	Kay, Ulysses*	Siegmeister, Elie*
Copland, Aaron*	Kirchner, Leon*	Silsbee, Ann
Cortes, Aaron	Kennan, Kent*	Smith, Hale
Cowell, Harry*	Kolb, Barbara	Still, William Grant*
Creston, Paul*	Kraft, Leo*	Stevens, Halsey*
Crumb, George*	Kraft, Robert*	Subotnick, Morton*
Cunningham, Arthur	Kurka, Robert	Thalma, Louise
Curtis-Smith, Curtis*	La Montaine, John*	Thompson, Virgil*
Dello-Joio, Norman*	Lybbert, Donald	Vandall, Robert
Del Tredici, David*	MacDowell, Edward	Waldron, Mel
Dett, Robert Nathaniel	Mailman, Martin*	Walker, George*
Diamond, David*	Martino, Donald*	Ward-Steinman, David
Dickerson, Roger	Martirano, Salvatore	Ward, Robert*
Diemer, Emma Lou*	Mechem, Kirke*	Weber, Ben
Druckman, Jacob*	Menin, Peter*	Wilson, Richard
Faith, Richard*	Moore, Douglas*	Wuorinen, Charles*
Feldman, Morton*	Muczynski, Robert*	Zabrack, Harold
Fine, Irving*	Oettinger, Alan*	

The following composers were not born in the United States: Samuel Adler, Richard Rodney Bennett, Ernest Bloch, Ingolf Dahl, Ernest Dohanyi, Percy Grainger, Ernest Krenek, Benjamin Lees, Gian Menotti, Robert Starer, Igor Stravinsky, Ernest Toch.

Eligible Concerti Starting in 2013 for Young Pianist, Young Violinist/Violist, Young Wind Musician and Young Cellist Categories. One movement only.

Cello

Boccherini B Flat Major
(Grutzmacher)
Haydn C Major
Haydn #2, D Major
Kabalevsky gm, Op 49
Popper Hungarian
Rhapsody, Op 68
Saint-Saens, a minor,
Op. 33 (3rd section only)

Flute

Faure Fantasie, Op. 79
Mozart G Major
Mozart D Major, K 314
Quantz G Major
C. Stamitz Concertino,
Op. 29 in GM
J. Stamitz Concerto,
D Major
Vivaldi "El Cardolino,"

Clarinet

Mozart K 622, A Major
Weber Concertino, Op 26,
E Flat Major

Weber Concerto No. 1,
Op. 73, f minor
Weber Concerto No. 2,
Op. 74, E Flat Major

Piano

Bach f minor
Bach A Major
Bach d minor
Bach E Major
Bach g minor
Beethoven#1, C Major
Beethoven #2, B Flat M
Beethoven #3, c minor
Beethoven #4, G Major
Chopin f minor & e minor
Grieg Concerto
Haydn D Major
Mendelssohn g minor
Mendelssohn d minor
Any Mozart Concerto
Prokofiev, CM (#3) 1st mov
Saint-Saens #2, gm, 1st mov
Schumann, am, 1st mov

Violin/Viola

Bach A Major Concerto
Bach a minor Concerto
Bach E Major Concerto
Bruch gm (#1) Cto 3rd mov
Mendelssohn e minor Cto
Mozart Violin Cto 2, 3, 4 or 5
Paganini Cto #1, D Major
Saint-Saens Intro &
Rondo, Op 28
Saint-Saens Havanaise,
E Major, Opus 83
Sarasate Ziguenerweisen,
Op. 20
Stamitz Viola Cto in D
Major, Op. 1
Vieutemps Cto #5, Op. 37
Vivaldi "Il Sospetto"
Vivaldi "Winter" or
"Autumn"
Hoffmeister DM Viola Cto
Stamitz DM Viola Cto, # 1

Piano Open Categories

Open categories are for designed for the superior student and repertoire should be chosen accordingly.

Young Pianist (P YP)

Young Pianist categories are designed for superior students performing music of a serious nature appropriate to the highest competitive levels. Repertoire used in Young Pianist may not be used in other categories.

Young Pianist age requirements:

Category 1	Age 11 or under
Category 2	Age 13 or under
Category 3	Age 15 or under
Category 4	Age 19 or under

Young Pianist repertoire requirements:

Be prepared to play one piece from each of the following:

Categories 1 and 2:

One movement of a standard piano concerto by Haydn or Mozart or the concerti No. 1 in C Major or No. 2 in B Flat Major by
(continued next page)

Beethoven, or the listed Bach or Mendelssohn concerti on p. 9.

Categories 3 and 4:

One movement from one of the concerti listed on page 9.

Young Pianist audition procedure:

Young Pianist auditions will be held in one round. The First Place winner of each category will be invited to perform with the Festival Orchestra. (Orchestral performance based on the availability of orchestral score.)

Young Pianist entrants may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from:

Open Baroque, Chopin or American Music, Ensemble, Open Duo/Duet, Duo/Duet for Mixed Instruments

Young Pianist entrants may not enter:

Open Solo, Qualified Categories, Open Concerto, Classic Complete Work

Piano Open Concerto (P OCn)

Provides for students to perform **one** movement of a concerto. Due to time constrictions 1st Place winner do not perform at Awards Recital. All place winners receive trophies. Time limit: 12 minutes.

Category 1 Age 12 or under

Category 2 Age 15 or under

Category 3 Age 19 or under

Open Concerto entrants may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from among:

Open American, Baroque or Chopin, Duo/Duet, Ensemble, Open Duo/Duet, Complete Classic Work OR Open Solo (not both)

Open Concerto entrants may not enter:

Young Pianist, Qualified Categories

Piano Open Complete Classic Work (P OCC)

Provides for students to perform a **complete** Sonata or Sonatina from the Classic Period.

Category 1 Age 8 or under 8 minute time limit

Category 2 Age 10 or under 8 minute time limit

Category 3 Age 12 or under 12 minute time limit

Category 4 Age 14 or under 12 minute time limit

Category 5 Age 16 or under 15 minute time limit

Category 6 Age 19 or under 15 minute time limit

Complete Classic Work entrants may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from: (continued next page)

Open American, Baroque or Chopin, Duo/Duet, Ensemble, Open Concerto (continued next page)

Complete Classic Work entrants may not enter:

Qualified Categories, Young Pianist, Piano Open Solo

Piano Open Solo (P O)

Open solo competition is designed for superior students performing solo music of a serious nature appropriate to highly competitive categories.

Open provides for a **free** choice of music within time and age

Piano Open Solo: Age and time requirements

Category 1	Age 5 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 2	Age 6 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 3	Age 7 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 4	Age 8 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 5	Age 9 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 6	Age 10 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 7	Age 11 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 8	Age 12 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 9	Age 13 or under	7 minute time limit
Category 10	Age 14 or under	7 minute time limit
Category 11	Age 15 or under	7 minute time limit
Category 12	Age 16 or under	7 minute time limit
Category 13	Age 17 or under	7 minute time limit
Category 14	Age 19 or under	7 minute time limit

Students entering Piano Open Solo may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from: Open American, Baroque or Chopin Music, Duo/Duet or Ensemble, Open Concerto

Piano Open Solo entrants may not enter:

Qualified Categories, Classic Complete Work, Young Pianist

Piano Open American (P OA)

Provides for Open students to perform solo music by composers who were born in the United States. (See listing on page 7.)

Category 1	Age 8 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 2	Age 10 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 3	Age 12 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 4	Age 14 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 5	Age 16 or under	7 minute time limit
Category 6	Age 19 or under	7 minute time limit

Piano Open Baroque (P OB)

Provides for students to perform solo music of the Baroque Period. No concerti allowed.

Category 1	Age 8 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 2	Age 9 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 3	Age 10 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 4	Age 11 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 5	Age 12 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 6	Age 13 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 7	Age 14 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 8	Age 15 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 9	Age 16 or under	7 minute time limit
Category 10	Age 19 or under	7 minute time limit

Piano Open Chopin Shorter Works (P OCS)

Provides for OPEN students to perform the shorter solo piano works of Frederic Chopin, chosen freely from the following genres listed below within specified time limits. (Andante Spianato & Grande Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22; Ballades; Barcarolle, Op. 60; Berceuse, Op. 57; Fantasy, Op. 49; Scherzos, and Sonatas are NOT ALLOWED in P OCS. Concertos are NOT ALLOWED in P OCS.) If you program a single work that exceeds the time limit, judges will stop you, but it will not impact their decision. Student may not use the same repertoire in other Categories. Two pieces are not required. Student cannot enter P OCS more than once. No rescheduling is permitted for students entered in the wrong category.

ALLOWED P OCS Genres

- Etudes
- Impromptus
- Mazurkas
- Nocturnes
- Polonaises
- Preludes
- Waltzes

Category 1	Age 8 or under	8 minute time limit
Category 2	Age 10 or under	8 minute time limit
Category 3	Age 12 or under	10 minute time limit
Category 4	Age 14 or under	10 minute time limit
Category 5	Age 16 or under	12 minute time limit
Category 6	Age 19 or under	12 minute time limit

Piano Open Chopin Longer Works (P OCL)

Provides for OPEN students to perform the longer solo piano works of Frederic Chopin, chosen freely from the following genres listed below within specified time limits. (Études, Impromptus, Mazurkas, Nocturnes, Polonaises, Preludes, Waltzes are NOT ALLOWED in P OCL. Concertos are NOT ALLOWED in P OCL.) If you program a single work that exceeds the time limit, the judges will stop you, but it will not impact their decision. Student may not use the same repertoire in other Categories. Two pieces are not required. Student cannot enter P OCL more than once. No rescheduling is permitted for students entered in the wrong category.

ALLOWED P OCL Genres

- Andante Spianato & Grande Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22
- Ballades
- Barcarolle, Op. 60
- Berceuse, Op. 57
- Fantasy, Op. 49
- Scherzos
- Sonatas

Category 1 Age 14 or under 12 minute time limit

Category 2 Age 19 or under 13 minute time limit

Piano Open Duo/Duet (P OD)

Allows for superior piano students to perform music of a serious nature, freely chosen, appropriate to highly competitive categories. Music for 2, 4, 6, or 8 hands is accepted. Students are entered by the age of the oldest player. **Music must be memorized.**

Category 1 Age 10 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 2 Age 13 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 3 Age 15 or under 6 minute time limit

Category 4 Age 19 or under 6 minute time limit

Piano Masterclass (PM)

This an Open level category. Entrants audition with one solo piano piece (one movement if piece has multiple movements). For 2026, the piece may be a piece used in another category. No concerti allowed. Winners will perform their winning piece in a masterclass with a master teacher during the second weekend of the SYMF.

PM 1 Ages 14-19 Time Limit 10 minutes

Piano Qualified Categories

Qualified categories are for the average level students and repertoire should be chosen accordingly.

Piano Qualified Concerto (P QCn)

Provides for students to perform **one** movement of a concerto. Place winners will receive trophies at the Awards Recital. However, due to time constrictions and accompanist's schedules, First Place winner will not be invited to perform. (Time limit: 12 minutes)

Category 1 Age 12 or under

Category 2 Age 15 or under

Category 3 Age 19 or under

Piano Qualified Concerto entrants may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from among: Qualified American, Baroque or Chopin Categories, Duo/Duet for Mixed Instruments, Ensemble or Piano Qualified Duet

Piano Qualified Concerto entrants may not enter:

Open Categories, Young Pianist, Qualified Solo or Classic Complete Work

Piano Qualified Complete Classic Work (P QCC)

Provides for students to perform a **complete** Sonata or Sonatina from the Classic Period.

Category 1 Age 8 or under 6 minute time limit

Category 2 Age 10 or under 8 minute time limit

Category 3 Age 12 or under 12 minute time limit

Category 4 Age 14 or under 12 minute time limit

Category 5 Age 16 or under 15 minute time limit

Category 6 Age 19 or under 15 minute time limit

Piano Qualified Complete Classic Work entrants may enter as many as 2 other categories and may choose from: Qualified American, Baroque or Chopin, Duo/Duet for Mixed Instruments Ensemble, Piano Qualified Duet Categories

Piano Qualified Complete Classic Work entrants may not enter:

Young Pianist, Open Categories, Qualified Solo, Qualified Concerto

Piano Qualified Solo (P Q)

The repertoire booklet for Piano Qualified Solo gives full information on age, time, category numbers and repertoire.

(continued next page)

Students entering Piano Qualified Solo Categories may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from: Qualified American, Baroque, Chopin or duet, Duo/Duet for Mixed Instruments, Ensemble

Piano Qualified Solo entrants may not enter: Open Solo, Young Pianist or Baroque Music, Any Concerto or Complete Work category.

Piano Qualified American (P QA)

Provides for Qualified students to perform solo music by composers who were born in the United States (See listing on page 7), chosen freely and within specified time limits. Two pieces are not required.

Category 1	Age 8 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 2	Age 10 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 3	Age 11 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 4	Age 12 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 5	Age 13 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 6	Age 14 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 7	Age 16 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 8	Age 19 or under	6 minute time limit

Piano Qualified Baroque (P QB)

Provides for Qualified students to perform solo music of the Baroque Period, chosen freely and within specified time limits. Concerti and Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue BWV 903 are not allowed. (Student may not use the same repertoire in other categories. Two pieces are not required.)

Category 1	Age 8 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 2	Age 9 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 3	Age 10 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 4	Age 11 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 5	Age 12 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 6	Age 13 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 7	Age 14 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 8	Age 15 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 9	Age 16 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 10	Age 19 or under	6 minute time limit

Piano Qualified Chopin (P QC)

Provides for QUALIFIED students to perform the shorter solo piano works of Frederic Chopin, chosen freely from the following genres listed below and within specified time limits. Andante Spianato & Grande Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22; Ballades; Barcarolle, Op. 60; Berceuse, Op. 57; Fantasy, Op. 49; Scherzos, and Sonatas are NOT ALLOWED in P QC. Concertos are NOT ALLOWED in P QC. If you program a single work that exceeds the time limit, the judges will stop you, but it will not impact their decision. Student may not use the same repertoire in other Categories. Two pieces are not required. Student cannot enter P QC more than once. No rescheduling is permitted for students entered in the wrong category.

ALLOWED P QC Genres

- Etudes
- Impromptus
- Mazurkas
- Nocturnes
- Polonaises
- Preludes
- Waltzes

Category 1	Age 8 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 2	Age 10 or under	5 minute time limit
Category 3	Age 12 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 4	Age 14 or under	6 minute time limit
Category 5	Age 16 or under	7 minute time limit
Category 6	Age 19 or under	7 minute time limit

Piano Qualified Duet (P QD)

See repertoire list of Piano Qualified Duet booklet for information on age, category numbers and repertoire. (No piano duo in Qualified Duet.) 5 minute time limit all categories.

Violin & Viola Open Categories

Open categories are for designed for the superior student and repertoire should be chosen accordingly.

Young Violinist/Violist (V YV)

The Young Violinist/Violist categories are designed for superior students performing music of a serious nature appropriate to highly competitive categories. **Violinists and violists compete together.** Age requirements are:

Category 1 Age 15 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Young Violinist/Violist repertoire requirements:

Be prepared to play one movement from one of the concerti listed on page 9.

Young Violinist/Violist Musician auditions will be held in one round. One First Place winner from **either** Young Cellist, Young Violinist or Young Wind Musician **may** be invited to appear as soloist with the Festival Orchestra

Young Violinist/Violist entrants may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from:

American or Baroque Music, Duo/Duet Categories for Mixed Instruments, Ensemble Categories

Young Violinist/Violist entrants may not enter:

Any Qualified Categories (V Q or VI Q Categories), Violin or Viola Open Solo

Violin Open Solo (V O)

Open solo competition is designed for superior students performing music of a serious nature appropriate to highly competitive categories. Open provides a free choice of music within time and age limits.

Category 1 Age 10 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 2 Age 11 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 3 Age 12 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 4 Age 13 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 5 Age 14 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 6 Age 15 or under 6 minute time limit

Category 7 Age 16 or under 6 minute time limit

Category 8 Age 19 or under 6 minute time limit

Viola Open Solo (VI O) (See above description from Violin Open Solo)

Category 1 Age 14 or under 5 min time limit

Category 2 Age 19 or under 5 min time limit

(continued next page)

Students entering Violin or Viola Open Solo may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from: American or Baroque Music, Ensemble, Duo/Duet Categories for Mixed Instruments.

Violin or Viola Open Solo entrants may not enter:

Qualified Categories, Young Violinist/Violist Categories

Violin/Viola American (V A)

Provides for soloists performing music by composers who were born in the United States. (See listing on page 7.) Open to both Qualified and Open students. 5 minute time limit

Category 1 Age 13 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Violin/Viola Open Baroque (V OB)

Provides for soloists to perform music of the Baroque Period.

Category 1 Age 10 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 2 Age 12 or under 5 minute time limit

Category 3 Age 14 or under 6 minute time limit

Category 4 Age 19 or under 6 minute time limit

Violin & Viola Qualified Categories

Qualified categories are designed for the average level student and repertoire should be chosen accordingly. Qualified students may enter as many as three categories and may select from Qualified Solo, Baroque, American, Duet, Duo/Duet or Ensemble. Repertoire which uses the piano only as an accompaniment is ineligible for duo/duet/ensemble categories. Qualified students **may not** enter Open categories.

Violin Qualified Solo (V Q)

The repertoire list for violin gives full information on age, time, category numbers and repertoire requirements. Time limit: 5 minutes.

Viola Qualified Solo (VI Q)

A viola Qualified list has not been issued. Viola students may enter Qualified categories based on their age. Students must perform music of a serious nature but not the level of difficulty as would be used in the Open categories. Time limit: 5 minutes.

Category 1 Age 14 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Students entering Violin or Viola Qualified Solo may enter 2 other categories and may choose from: Qualified American or Baroque, Duo/Duet, Ensemble

Violin or Viola Qualified Solo entrants may not enter:

Open Solo, Young Violinist/Violist

Violin/Viola American (V A)

Provides for soloists performing music by composers who were born in the United States. (See listing on page 7.) Open to both Qualified and Open students. Time limit: 5 minutes.

Category 1 Age 13 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Violin/Viola Qualified Baroque (V QB)

Provides for soloists to perform music of the Baroque Period. 5 minute time limit in all categories

Category 1 Age 12 or under

Category 2 Age 14 or under

Category 3 Age 16 or under

Category 4 Age 19 or under

Violin/Viola Qualified Duo/Duet (V QD)

Please note: No concerti or repertoire that uses a piano may be used in these categories. (example: Bach Double Violin Concerto should be in CMS Category, see above). These categories are for the following combinations: Qualified violin/violin, violin/viola or viola/viola. (5 min. limit)

Category 1 Age 11 or under

Category 2 Age 14 or under

Category 3 Age 19 or under

Wind Open Categories

Memorization is required in Wind Open Categories. **Open categories** are for designed for the superior student and repertoire should be chosen accordingly.

Young Wind Musician (Y WM)

Young Wind Musician categories are designed for superior students performing music of a serious nature appropriate to highly competitive categories. Be prepared to play one movement from one of the concerti listed on page 9.

Young Wind Musician age requirements:

Category 1 Age 15 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Young Wind Musician auditions will be held in one round. One First Place winner from either Young Cellist, Young Violinist or Young, Wind Musician **may** be invited to appear as soloist with the Festival Orchestra. (continued next page)

Young Wind Musician repertoire requirements:

Be prepared to play one movement from one of the concerti listed on page 9.

Young Wind Musician audition procedure:

Young Wind Musician auditions will be held in one round. One First Place winner from either Young Cellist, Young Violinist or Young Wind Musician may be invited to appear as soloist with the Festival Orchestra

Young Wind Musician entrants may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from:

American or Baroque, Duo/Duet and Ensemble

Young Wind Musician entrants may not enter:

Qualified or Open Solo

Flute or Clarinet Open Solo (F O) & (Cl O)

Open solo competition is designed for superior students performing music of a serious nature appropriate to highly competitive categories. Open provides for a free choice of music within time and age limits.

Flute (F O) or Clarinet Open (Cl O) Solo

Age and time requirements

Cat 1 Age 12 or under	5 min limit	Cat 3 Age 16 or under	6 min limit
Cat 2 Age 14 or under	5 min limit	Cat 4 Age 19 or under	6 min limit

Students entering Flute or Clarinet Open Solo may enter two other categories and may choose from:

American Music, Duo/Duet Categories for Mixed Instruments, Baroque Music, Ensemble Categories

Flute or Clarinet Open Solo entrants may not enter:

Qualified Categories, Young Wind Musician

Wind Open American (W OA)

Provides for soloists performing music by composers who were born in the United States. (See listing on page 7.)

Category 1	Age 12 or under	5 min limit
Category 2	Age 15 or under	5 min limit
Category 3	Age 19 or under	6 min limit

Wind Open Baroque (W OB)

Provides for soloists to perform music of the Baroque Period.

Category 1	Age 12 or under	5 min limit
Category 2	Age 15 or under	6 min limit
Category 3	Age 19 or under	6 min limit

Wind Qualified Categories

Memorization is optional in Wind Qualified categories. **Qualified categories** are designed for the average level student and repertoire should be chosen accordingly.

Flute Qualified Solo (F Q)

The repertoire list for flute gives full information on age, category numbers and repertoire. Refer to this list. Time limit: 5 minutes.

Clarinet Qualified Solo (Cl Q)

A clarinet Qualified list has not been issued. Clarinet students may enter Qualified categories based on their age. Students must perform music of a serious nature but not the level of difficulty as would be used in the Open categories. Time limit: 5 minutes.

Category 1	Age 11 or under
Category 2	Age 13 or under
Category 3	Age 15 or under
Category 4	Age 19 or under

Students entering Flute or Clarinet Qualified Solo may enter two other categories and may choose from:

American or Baroque, Duo/Duet, Ensemble

Flute or Clarinet Qualified Solo entrants may not enter:

Open Solo, Wind or Baroque Musician, Ensemble, American or Baroque Music Duo/Duet, Ensemble or Young Recitalist

Wind Qualified American (W QA)

Provides for soloists performing music by composers who were born in the United States. (See listing on page 7.)

Category 1	Age 12 or under	5 min limit
Category 2	Age 15 or under	5 min limit
Category 3	Age 19 or under	6 min limit

Wind Qualified Baroque (W QB)

Provides for soloists to perform music of the Baroque Period.

Category 1	Age 12 or under	5 min limit
Category 2	Age 15 or under	5 min limit
Category 3	Age 19 or under	6 min limit

Cello Open and Qualified Categories

Open categories are for designed for the superior student. **Qualified categories** are designed for the average student. Please choose categories and repertoire accordingly.

Young Cellist (C YC)

Young Cellist categories are designed for superior students performing music of a serious nature appropriate to highly competitive categories.

Category 1 Age 15 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Young Cellist repertoire requirements:

Be prepared to play one movement from one of the concerti listed on page 9.

Young Cellist audition procedure:

Young Cellist auditions will be held in one round. One First Place winner from either Young Cellist, Young Violinist or Young Wind

Musician may be invited to appear as soloist with the Festival Orchestra

Young Cellist entrants may enter as many as two other categories and may choose from:

American or Baroque, Duo/Duet and Ensemble

Young Cellist entrants may not enter:

Qualified or Open Solo categories

Cello Open Solo (C O)

Open solo competition is designed for superior students performing music of a serious nature appropriate to highly competitive categories.

Open provides for a free choice of music within time and age limits.

Cello Open Solo: Age and time requirements

Category 1 Age 12 or under 5 min limit

Category 2 Age 14 or under 5 min limit

Category 3 Age 16 or under 6 min limit

Category 4 Age 19 or under 6 min limit

Cello Open Solo students may enter 2 other categories:

American or Baroque, Duo/Duet, Ensemble

Cello Open Solo entrants may not enter:

Qualified, Young Cellist Categories

Cello Qualified Solo (C Q)

The Cello Repertoire List has information on age, time, category numbers and repertoire. Refer to this list.

Cello Qualified Solo students may enter 2 other categories:

American or Baroque, Ensemble, Duo/Duet

Cello Qualified Solo entrants may not enter:

Open Solo or any Open categories

Cello American (C A)

Provides for soloists performing music by composers who were born in the United States. (See list on page 7.) Time limit: 5 minutes

Category 1 Age 13 or under Category 2 Age 19 or under

Cello Baroque (C B)

Provides for soloists to perform music of Baroque Period. 5 min limit

Category 1 Age 13 or under Category 2 Age 19 or under

Categories for Multiple Performers

These categories are for pieces that require more than one performer. Open to both pianists and instrumentalists except the Concerti for Multiple Soloists (CMS) category (instrumentalists only). Please see individual categories for specific requirements.

Duo/Duet: Mixed or like instruments (D)

Please note: No repertoire that uses a piano accompaniment may be used in these categories. **No piano duo/duets allowed.** Piano is not an accompaniment but an equal part. *Instrumental Sonatas are allowed but the pianist must be a registered student.* Allows for students performing music of a serious nature, freely chosen. Category number is determined by the oldest member of the soloists **Open to both Open & Qualified students.**

Category 1 Age 13 or under 5 min limit

Category 2 Age 19 or under 6 min limit

Ensemble Music Qualified (En Q)

Please note: No repertoire that uses a piano accompaniment may be used in these categories. **No piano duo/duets allowed.** Piano is not an accompaniment but an equal part. Ensembles of from 3 to 5 performers on any combination of instruments. Category number is determined by the oldest member of the soloists. A score must be provided for the judges. **For students entered in Qualified Categories.** Time limit: 5 minutes

Category 1 Age 13 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Ensemble Music Open (En O)

Please note: No repertoire that uses a piano accompaniment may be used in these categories. **No piano duo/duets allowed.** Piano is not an accompaniment but an equal part. Ensembles of from 3 to 5 performers on any combination of instruments. Category number is determined by the oldest member of the soloists. A score must be provided for the judges. **For students entered in Open categories.** Time limit: 5 minutes.

Category 1 Age 13 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Concerti for Multiple Soloists (CMS)

This category will allow for concerti such as the Bach Concerto for Two Violins, Concerto for Violin and Oboe, Vivaldi Concerto for Four Violins, Brahms Concerto for Violin and Cello, etc. One movement only, memorized. Non-concerti pieces are not allowed (the word "Concerto" or similar must be in the title). Maximum of up to four (4) soloists. Category number is determined by the oldest member of the soloists. Piano is accompaniment only and is not to be a student entry. **Open to both Qualified and Open students.** Time limit: 5 minutes.

Category 1 Age 12 or under

Category 2 Age 19 or under

Special Categories

Showcase Benefit Recital (SCBR)

This an Open level category. This category has a two part audition: 1) a performance of a solo work and 2) an interview. No piano concerti or works featuring multiple pianos are allowed. A collaborative pianist must be used if the piece is originally written with orchestral or piano accompaniment. **For 2026, the piece may be a piece used in another category. This category will be subject to the three category maximum noted in rule #10.**

The first place winners must perform at a benefit recital at a later date that will include their winning piece and an interview with a celebrity host.

Time limit: 10 minutes (Pieces performed in its entirety must not exceed 7 minutes. The interview will be about 3 minutes).

SCBRW 1 For Wind instruments, Ages 11-14

SCBRW 2 For Wind instruments, Ages 15-19

SCBRP 1 For Piano, Ages 11-14

SCBRP 2 For Piano, Ages 15-19

SCBRS 1 For String instruments, Ages 11-14

SCBRS 2 For String instruments, Ages 15-19

Music in Art (MA)

Students will submit a photo of a music inspired artwork (limited to a drawing or painting) they have created. Students will also submit a short paragraph describing their artwork. They will be judged by a panel of local artists and up to four winners' artworks will be displayed during the SYMF Competition. This category is NOT subject to the three category maximum noted in rule #10 (a student may enter three performance categories and the Music on Art category).

Category 1 Age 11-14

Category 2 Age 15-19