



Youth Artists Solo COMPETITION

Dearborn Symphony's (DOS) Youth Artists Solo Competition is intended to identify, recognize, and encourage youth in the southeastern Michigan area who are pursuing the study of classical music and afford them an opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra.

DATE: Preliminaries: Saturday, April 11, 2026 Finals: Sunday, April 12, 2026

LOCATION: Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, 24110 Cherry Hill St, Dearborn, MI 48124

The contestant will receive an e-mail stating his or her audition time no later than **7 days** prior to the competition. Contestants may indicate their need for special consideration in setting the audition time **on their application**. Students may not exchange audition times with other contestants. Contestants will provide their own accompanist and both should **arrive thirty minutes** before their audition time to allow for registration and warm-up. Each contestant will be allowed up to 15 minutes for warm-up. A limited number of warm-up rooms will be available. Not all warm-up rooms for contestants in Category I and III will be furnished with a piano. All performances must be accompanied. The Youth Artists Solo Competition on Saturday is a closed audition; only judges, an accompanist, and room monitors will be present for the performance. The Finals on Sunday may be open to the public.

The Anti-Discrimination policy adopted by the Dearborn Orchestral Society Board also applies to this competition as required by law. Contestants who have not yet reached their 19th birthday by the competition date are eligible to enter.

Contestants will perform one movement of a concerto or other work composed for one or more solo instruments with orchestral accompaniment. The contestant should play at a level appropriate to the competition. Each performance will not exceed 10 minutes in length although the solo selection may be longer. **The solo selection shall be one movement, memorized and the contestant should be dressed professionally.** Recordings are not allowed. When selecting a work for performance, contestants should consider the availability and appropriateness of the music for Dearborn Symphony.

Contestants must be residents or take regular lessons (e.g. at least one lesson per month) from a professional music instructor who resides in one of the following Michigan counties: Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, or Wayne. Contestants may choose to enter in more than one category. Participants are not eligible to win the competition in the same category in two consecutive years. The concerto (in part) selected for your audition will also be the movement performed with the Dearborn Symphony at their 26/27 Season opening concert Friday, October 2, 2026. Contestants must provide two copies of their music to the judges, one of which should be an original copy. **Auditions will be limited to the first 30 in each category, based on the application postmark date.**

Sponsored by Dearborn Symphony

Categories of Competition

There are four separate categories with the top three in each category advancing to the finals:

Category I: all string instruments including violin, viola, cello, bass, and classical guitar

Category II: piano

Category III: all wind instruments, brass and woodwinds

Category IV: all other instruments, such as percussion, etc.

Each category must have a minimum of eight applicants. If this number is not met, the category may be eliminated for this year's competition and the audition fees returned. The Dearborn Symphony also reserves the right to combine categories for the purposes of judging and eliminate the finals audition on Sunday afternoon. In this event, all contestants would be judged by music professionals with winners selected from a single performance.

Competition Awards

There may be one First Place winner among the three categories. If selected, the First Place Winner will receive a cash prize of \$500 with an opportunity to perform with the Dearborn Symphony at the Friday, October 2, 2026 concert. The judges reserve the right not to award a First Place winner. In some cases, a Second Place award of \$100 may be granted, but without the right to perform with the Symphony. **All decisions by the judges are final.** Winners will be informed by phone following the competition. Other contestants will receive an email notification of the results.

First Place Winner Responsibilities

If awarded, the winner will attend evening orchestra rehearsals in Dearborn from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. one to two evenings in the week leading up to the concert on October 2, 2026, the dates as assigned by Music Director and Conductor Steven Jarvi.

If you have questions, call 313-565-2424 during business hours or you may visit Dearborn Symphony's website at www.dearbornsymphony.com and click on the Youth Artists Solo Competition link. You may download additional copies of this document and the application form from the website.

Send your **completed application, a \$50.00 non-refundable application fee (make checks payable to Dearborn Symphony) to:**

2026 Youth Artists Solo Competition
Dearborn Symphony
P.O. Box 2063
Dearborn, MI 48123

Contestants will be notified of their audition time by email at the address provided on your application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Postmarked by Friday, March 13, 2026
LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED