



Young Soloist Competition

Requirements and Guidelines

Summary

Application Deadline	November 24, 2025
Eligibility Requirements	Open to pianists, strings, winds, brass, percussionists, and vocalists. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible (including those who graduate Winter 2025). No restrictions on residential location but must be able to attend rehearsals in Santa Clarita starting in late January or early February, as directed. Three (3) winners will be selected by a panel of judges to perform their piece with SCSO at their concert on March 8, 2026. Winners will receive a professional recording of their piece as performed in the concert and a plaque. Judges reserve the right to select as winners any combination of vocalists/instrumentalists.
Audition Requirements	Auditioners should submit a recording of their audition piece. See below for recording and submissions requirements. Alternatively, if a quality recording cannot be made, auditioners may perform their concerto or aria at the location below to be recorded and submitted to the judging panel. Audition pieces must be less than 12 minutes in length (for multi-movement pieces, performers may perform more than one movement as long as the total length is under 12 minutes). An accompanist may be used for audition submissions but is not required. Recordings must be submitted via email by 11:59 PM on December 6, 2025 to the email listed on the following page.



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Audition Information (for live recordings)	Location: Santa Clarita United Methodist Church 26640 Bouquet Canyon Rd, Santa Clarita, CA Date: December 6, 2025 (3:00 pm – TBD) Once applications are processed, a timeslot will be provided to applicants who request a live recording.
Application Process	Submit the completed application form and a signed copy of these guidelines via email or USPS mail. Mailing address: Santa Clarita Symphony Orchestra 27002 Maple Tree Ct, Santa Clarita, CA 91381 Email address is noted below. Applications must be postmarked by Nov 24 and recordings submitted by Dec 6.

More Resources

Visit [our website](#) for more information. For questions about the application or process, or to submit applications/recordings, email concerto@santaclaritasymphonyorchestra.org.

By signing below, parent/guardian certifies that the applicant is eligible to compete and agrees to comply with the competition requirements.

Print Guardian/Parent Name: _____

Signature Guardian/Parent: _____



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Recording Requirements

I. Performance and Editing Requirements

- **Single, Unedited Take:** The performance segment of your piece must be recorded in one continuous, uninterrupted take from start to finish.
- **No Editing:** Absolutely no audio or video editing, cuts, splices, pitch correction, or sound enhancements (like reverb) are permitted within the performance itself.
- **Time Limit:** Must strictly adhere to the competition's maximum time limit (e.g., 12 minutes). The judges will stop watching when the time is up.

II. Video and Framing Requirements

- **Stationary Camera:** The video device must remain steady on a tripod or stable surface. No panning, zooming, fading, or use of multiple camera angles.
- **Framing:** The camera must be positioned to capture you, your instrument, and your full range of motion throughout the entire performance.
- **Judges must clearly see your face/head and your technique** (fingers, bowing, embouchure, etc.).
- **The music stand should not block your face or hands/instrument.**
- **Orientation:** If using a phone or tablet, record in landscape (horizontal) orientation.
- **Lighting:** Film in a well-lit space. The primary light source (window, lamp, etc.) should be in front of you (behind the camera), not behind you (to avoid a dark silhouette).

III. Audio and Environment Requirements

- **Clarity and Balance:** The sound must be clear, audible, and accurately represent your tone and dynamics.
- **No Distortion/Clipping:** Test the audio levels beforehand to ensure the sound does not distort or "peak" during the loudest passages, but that the softest passages can still be heard.
- **Quiet Environment:** Record in a quiet space free of ambient noise (traffic, heating/AC, chatter, pets, etc.).
- **External Mic (Recommended):** While not always required, using an external microphone is strongly encouraged to achieve better sound quality than a device's built-in mic.
- **If using an external mic, avoid playing or singing directly into it.**
- **Acoustics:** Record in a room with a pleasant, natural acoustic. Avoid small rooms with excessive echo or large, overly-reverberant spaces.



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V. Submission/Technical Format

- Upload Format: The video is typically uploaded to YouTube, Vimeo (set to Unlisted) or a cloud service (e.g., Dropbox, Google Drive) with a shareable link.
- File Name: Name the video file or link clearly using the competition's required format (e.g., Instrument_LastName_FirstName_Composer_PieceTitle).
- Privacy Settings: If using YouTube, the video must be set to Unlisted (viewable only with the direct link) or Public, as specified. Do not set it to Private.
- Technical Check: Watch and listen to the entire video you intend to submit before finalizing to verify the quality and adherence to all rules