

2025 Jack Weaver Memorial Competition for Violin, Viola and Cello

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025

Registration Deadline: Sunday, April 6, 2025

Registration Fee: \$50 ASTA members, \$75 non-ASTA members

Location: Calvary Lutheran Church

9545 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Note: Parking on the grass next to the exit drive is available if needed.

Prizes

Each instrument category (violin, viola and cello) will be awarded the following:

First prize: \$500

Second prize: \$400

Third prize: \$300

Woman/BIPOC Composer: \$300

The last prize will be awarded for the best performance of a work by a woman or BIPOC composer in each category. This may be awarded in addition to, or separately from, one of the prizes above.

- Participants will only compete against others playing the same instrument.
- The judges may choose not to award all prizes. The decision of the judges is final.
- Judges will make their decisions at the conclusion of the competition and awards will be announced at that time. Winners do not need to be present.

Eligibility:

- Participants must be in grades 9-12 in a public, private, parochial or homeschool program AND must be at least 14 years old and not yet 19 years old.
- Participants must either:
 - live in Maryland or DC **or**

- be the student of a teacher who lives or teaches in Maryland or DC
- Competitors must play either violin, viola, or cello. (Even though all performers will *perform* in the same room for the same panel of judges, participants will only *compete* against others playing the same instrument.)
- First prize winners from the most recent year are *not* eligible to compete on the same instrument, however, they may compete on another instrument (for example, a participant who won first prize last year competing as a violinist may register this year to compete as a violist or cellist).
- Registration deadline: Saturday, March 2, 2024. The registration fee is \$50 for students of ASTA members, and \$75 for all others.

Repertoire Guidelines:

- Each participant will perform two contrasting pieces or movements from pieces, which must be selected from different style periods and must be performed from memory. The only exception to the memorization requirement will be made for one movement of a sonata with piano, which may be performed with music. (The other work must be performed from memory.)
- Recommended total performance time is 10-12 minutes.
- Selections must be either unaccompanied works or works with piano.
- Repertoire written to include piano must be performed with piano.
- Concerto movements will be performed with piano.
- Participants must have their own pianist.
- **Optional:** Performers *may* perform a work by a woman or BIPOC composer. A special prize is available for the best performance of a work in this category, and may be awarded to any competitor. (violin, viola, or cello).

Performances:

- Plan to arrive about 30 minutes ahead of time. DC area traffic is notoriously unpredictable. Students will be assigned performance times in one-hour groups to help avoid delays because of traffic conditions. They will be heard in order of arrival.
- Students will be announced to the judges by number. Judges will not be given students' names prior to the announcement of winners at the end of the competition.

- Performers will wait for one of the judges to let them know they are ready to hear the performance. Performers will choose which piece they would like to play first.
- The competition is open to the public. Students should be dressed for a public performance. Jackets and ties are optional, especially for violinists and violists. Performers are encouraged to hear the other performances, particularly after they are finished with their own performance.
- Cuts in lengthy orchestral tuttis are expected.
- No video equipment is permitted with artificial light, nor is the use of cameras with flash permitted during a performance.
- No recording (audio or video) or photographing of other performers is permitted without the specific permission of a parent or teacher.
- After the last competitor has performed, the judges will confer to determine all prizes to be awarded. A public announcement will then be made. Competitors are not required to be present to receive an award.

Additional Notes:

- There must be at least five total participants (of all instruments, not per category) from at least three different teachers for the competition to be held. If this requirement is not met, the competition will be canceled and registration fees will be refunded.
- Unless the competition is canceled, there will be no refund of any registration fee should a competitor fail to participate for any reason. Judges have been hired and the venue has been rented.
- If a student is delayed or unable to attend at the last minute, please send a text to Mr. Pfannschmidt at 240-654-7642 as soon as possible.
- If a teacher and/or parent would like to communicate any information concerning a special need of a student participating in this event, please contact Mark Pfannschmidt: MarkPf.viola@gmail.com.
- It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that students and parents understand all the rules and behavior expected at a competition.
- No student or parent is to have contact with the judges during or prior to the event. It is appropriate for students to thank the judges after the winners are announced.

- Teachers should not sit with their students and should restrict any contact with their students to the warm-up room until the winners are announced.
- All judges' decisions are final.

Judging: Judging is a subjective process that involves many aspects of playing:

- Technique: intonation, rhythm, tone, vibrato, shifting
- Interpretation: phrasing, pacing, style, musicality

After the competition:

- PDF copies of the judges' comment sheets will be emailed **to the teacher** of each participant within a week after the competition.
- **Each participant** will also receive an envelope in the mail containing the judges' comment sheets along with a certificate of participation and any prizes awarded. These mailings should be received within two weeks. If you have not received your envelope after two weeks, please contact Mr. Pfannschmidt: MarkPf.viola@gmail.com.

ASTA MD/DC thanks **The Violin House of Weaver** for the generous underwriting of this competition.