2026 Solo Competition

Guidelines

Preliminary Video Round:
March 16-April 26, 2026

Results Preliminary Round:
May 16, 2026

Final Round: May 23, 2026*
Location: Grace Presbyterian Church 2100 Tice Valley Rd Walnut Creek CA
From: 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM (Times subject to change)

Purpose

To provide string instrument students of all levels opportunities for performance, evaluation, and recognition.

Procedure and Awards

The Solo Competition will be held in two rounds. Interested candidates will apply via google forms, submitting videos for the first round, and those that are advanced to the finals will have a live round **May 23, 2026** at the **Grace Presbyterian Church 2100 Tice Valley Rd Walnut Creek CA.**. All applicants will receive written comments from our judges via email. Teachers will have access to those comments through their students. Judges can award up to **$300** in cash prizes to winners and there are potential concert opportunities.

Winners of SF CalASTA's 2026 Solo Competition may be invited to participate in the CalASTA bi-annual State Competition in the Fall of 2026. NEW POLICY: Previous winners of the SF competition may also apply to participate in the 2026 State Competition. See "Eligibility #5" below.

Eligibility

1. For active student members and private students of active professional members of the CalASTA San Francisco section.

2. Performers of the violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar and harp are welcome to apply.

3. There are **THREE** age groups for the solo competition: **Novice**: through age 12, **Junior**: 13-18,

Senior: 19-25 (age as of March 15, 2026). *We reserve the right to combine divisions if fewer than 10 applicants per age group apply.* Scan of certified copy or original birth certificate, passport, or driver's license must accompany the application as proof of age. School IDs can be used as long as they show the student's age.

4. First place winners from previous years are not eligible to compete this year unless they have aged up into an older division. Previous 2nd place, 3rd place and Honorable Mention award winners **are** eligible to compete again in the same age division in successive years.

5. (New) Winners of previous editions of our CalASTASF competition who have not changed age category and that will continue to be in that age category in March 2026 may submit a video to qualify for the 2026 State Competition without passing through our local competition process. The jury will decide whether to pass or not the candidate based on their video application.

Repertoire for the solo competition

- Two works or movements of works from the standard literature are required: one from the Baroque or Classical period, and the other from a contrasting period.
- A third piece may also be included but is not required.
- There are no time limits, however judges may opt to only hear portions of the works prepared.
- Memorization for the local competition will be left to the discretion of the teachers, although it is required for the state and national levels of the ASTA competition.
- Please provide PDF copies of scores that can be shared with the judges.

Preliminary Video Audition Requirements

- Applicants will upload video recordings via google forms of themselves playing each of their selected audition pieces in their entirety.
- Videos must have been recorded after March 2025.
- Please do not include the student's or teacher's name.
- Videos must be recorded without stopping, may not be edited, and the applicants must be visible during the whole performance.
- Please do not speak on the video.
- Piano accompaniment is highly encouraged, as it helps judges to accurately assess the candidate's ability to play with others, however, the pianist should not appear in the video.
- Please upload each piece in separate videos and label them with the piece being performed (i.e. Boccherini Concerto in B-flat Major, second movement).
- We are asking students or their parents to accept a release form for application videos in order to use them in ASTA-related activities. Parents will agree for candidates that are under the age

of 18, whereas candidates over the age of 18 will agree in their own name.

Application Deadline and Fee

- We plan to begin accepting applications this year starting **March 1 and ending April 26 at midnight PT.** The application fee is **$75**. No student will be denied entrance to this competition for lack of funds. If you need more help with financial assistance, please contact Wendy Reynolds at wendylreynolds@gmail.com

Judging

1. Efforts will be made to have a diversity of instruments represented in the panel, however specialists for each instrument will be made available for the panel's consultation.
2. Teachers of contestants may not adjudicate the level in which their students are participating.
3. Panel members will not be informed of the candidates' names or teachers.
4. Panel members are required to consider only the performance given by a competitor on that particular day or in that particular video; no other prior experiences, whether positive or negative, are relevant to the competition.https://www.calasta.org/san-francisco
5. Contact with panel members by parents, teachers or students before results are announced is not allowed.
6. If there is a tie between participants for a prize, the chairperson of the Solo Competition Committee will break the tie. In the case of their absence, a member of the Committee appointed by the chairperson can break the tie.
7. Board members may serve on the panel as long as they are not on the Solo Competition Committee and do not have students in the level that they are adjudicating.
8. A conversation thread will be maintained between the panel members, however members of the panel will not be informed of other panel members' ratings.
9. A rating system has been created to assess applicants' skills involving stage presence, musicality, expression and tone, technical skills, rhythmic discipline, general intonation, and interpretation of the score.

Questions? Please contact the competition committee at competition.asta.sanfrancisco@gmail.com or visit CalASTA San Francisco's web page at www.calasta.org/san-francisco for more information.