

COLLIN COUNTY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

CATEGORIES:

Piano ~ Strings ~ Winds/Percussion

DIVISIONS:

Junior: Grades 1 - 8

Senior: Grades 9 - 12

ELIGIBILITY:

Participants must meet **one** of the following requirements:

(a) Live in Plano, Frisco, or Collin County
(b) Attend a Collin County, Plano ISD, or Frisco ISD, Prosper ISD, Allen ISD school

(c) Study the audition instrument

(1) in Collin County, or

(2) with a primary private lesson teacher who resides in Plano or Collin County or is a PSO musician

(d) a child of a PSO musician

Former Grand Prize Winners are not eligible to enter again in the same Category (Piano, Strings, or Winds/Percussion).

AWARDS:

GRAND PRIZE: Performance with the Plano Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, **July 17, 2026.**

Up to three participants may be awarded a Grand Prize.

Winners may be Jr. or Sr. Division entrants from any Category.

PLACE WINNERS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place & Honorable Mention Winners may be named in both Divisions of each Category.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES: Additional performance opportunities may be awarded to finalists including but not limited to school concert program concerto opportunity (Feb/Mar 2027)

Contestants must be present at the awards ceremony January 11 to receive awards.

Judges have the option of not designating winners for all of the awards.

The decision of the judges is final.

REPERTOIRE: Each participant must **memorize** and perform one or more movements of a concerto from the Approved Repertoire List. **Additional**

concertos will be considered on a case by case basis. Approval must be prior to application, and all decisions by PSO are final. Please email

jwheeler@planosymphony.org with any questions. Concerto movement(s) with full accompaniment should total no more than 15 minutes. Live preliminary auditions may be limited to 5-8 minutes, and final round performances will be 9 minutes. If the concerto movement is longer than 9 minutes please choose a representative section to perform. Grand Prize Winners will perform their entire concerto movement(s) at the March PSO concert.

LIVE AUDITIONS:

DATE: January 11, 2026 Preliminary Rounds 9am-5pm

January 11, 2026 Final Round 6:30-9pm

**LOCATION: Robinson Fine Arts Center
1800 Alma Dr., Plano**

Each contestant must memorize the concerto movement(s) and provide accompanist for Preliminary and Final performances. The accompanist cannot be the teacher or the teacher's spouse.

Contestants must bring 2 printed copies of the concerto for the judges for both the preliminary and final rounds. One may be a copy, but one must be an original score.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

All Applications must be completed and submitted online. The **\$75** non-refundable application fee can be paid by credit card online. Applications with incomplete information will not be able to be submitted online until corrected. Deadline for applications is **5:00 PM** on Friday, **Dec. 8, 2025**. Please do not wait until the last few minutes of the due date to try to complete the application and submit it online. If the application is missing any information, it cannot be submitted and you may miss the 5:00 PM deadline.

FORMAT for AUDITIONS on January 11, 2026

1. There will be no recorded round.
 2. All preliminary rounds will take place January 11, 8am-5pm
 3. Any applicant who does not attend their assigned preliminary audition time will be ineligible to compete the following year. Please notify PSO of any issues with attendance prior to competition.
 4. Applicants should plan to arrive 20 minutes prior to assigned time.
 5. Finalists will be posted by 6pm at the Robinson Fine Arts Center
 6. The judges may choose up to 4 Finalists from each Category (Piano, Strings, Wind/Percussion) to compete for the Grand Prize.
 7. First, Second, and Third Places in each category and Honorable Mention winners will also be named at the awards ceremony. These prizes are selected from the Preliminary Rounds.
 8. Finalists will each perform a 9 minute sample of their concerto movement in the Final Round to compete for one of the three Grand Prize performances in July 2026. Any Finalist may be chosen as a Grand Prize winner- preliminary rankings are discarded and new adjudicators choose Grand Prize winners.
3. Finals will be open to the public and performed before a panel of judges including Simon Gollo, PSO assistant conductor and panelists who did not hear the preliminary round.

Please email Dr. Jennifer Wheeler with questions:
jwheeler@planosymphony.org