

COLLIN COUNTY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

2027 Competition Rules

CATEGORIES	DIVISIONS
Piano • Strings • Winds/Percussion	Junior: Grades 1–8 Senior: Grades 9–12

ELIGIBILITY

Participants must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Live in Plano, Frisco, or Collin County.
- Attend a school in Collin County or in Plano ISD, Frisco ISD, Prosper ISD, or Allen ISD.
- Study the audition instrument in Collin County, or with a primary private lesson teacher who resides in Plano or Collin County, or who is a Plano Symphony Orchestra musician.
- Be the child of a Plano Symphony Orchestra 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 in July 2027 (exact date TBA). Up to three participants may receive a Grand Prize. Winners may be Junior or Senior Division entrants from any category.
- **PLACE WINNERS:** First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention winners may be named in both divisions of each category. Place winners are selected from the preliminary round performances.
- **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES:** Finalists may be offered additional performance opportunities, including but not limited to a School Concert Program concerto opportunity in February/March 2028.
- Contestants must be present at the awards ceremony on February 28, 2027 to receive awards.
- Judges may choose not to designate winners for every award. All judges' decisions are final.

REPERTOIRE

Each participant must memorize and perform one or more movements of a concerto from the Approved Repertoire List. Additional concertos may be considered on a case-by-case basis, but approval must be obtained before submitting the application. All repertoire decisions by PSO are final.

Concerto movement(s), with full accompaniment, may total no more than 15 minutes. Preliminary auditions may be limited to 5–8 minutes; Final Round performances will be 9 minutes. If a movement is longer than 9 minutes, contestants should select a representative section for the Final Round. Grand Prize Winners will perform their complete approved concerto movement(s) with PSO.

LIVE AUDITIONS

Preliminary Rounds	February 28, 2027 • 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Final Round	February 28, 2027 • 6:30–9:00 PM
Location	Robinson Fine Arts Center • 1800 Alma Dr., Plano

- Each contestant must memorize the concerto movement(s) and provide an accompanist for both Preliminary and Final Round performances. The accompanist may not be the contestant's teacher or the teacher's spouse.
- Contestants must bring two printed copies of the concerto score for the judges for both rounds. One copy may be a photocopy; at least one must be an original score.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must be completed and submitted online.
- The non-refundable application fee is \$75 and may be paid online by credit card.
- Incomplete applications cannot be submitted until all required information is corrected. Collaborative pianist information **MUST** be submitted by January 22, 2027 for scheduling purposes.
- Application deadline: 5:00 PM on Friday, January 22, 2027.

AUDITION FORMAT

- There will be no recorded round. All Preliminary Rounds will take place in person on February 28, 2027 from 9:00 AM–5:00 PM.
- Applicants should arrive 20 minutes before their assigned audition time.
- Any applicant who does not attend their assigned Preliminary Round time may be ineligible to compete the following year. Please notify PSO before the competition if an attendance issue arises.

- Finalists will be posted by 6:00 PM at the Robinson Fine Arts Center.
- Judges may select up to four finalists from each category (Piano, Strings, and Winds/Percussion) to compete for the Grand Prize.
- First, Second, and Third Place and Honorable Mention awards in each category/division will be selected from the Preliminary Rounds and announced at the awards ceremony.
- Each finalist will perform a 9-minute sample of the concerto movement in the Final Round. Preliminary rankings are discarded; Grand Prize winners are selected by a new panel of adjudicators.
- The Final Round is open to the public and will be heard by a panel including Alexandra Kovatch, PSO Assistant Conductor, and adjudicators who did not hear the Preliminary Round.
- Up to three Grand Prize winners may be selected to perform with the Plano Symphony Orchestra in July 2027.

QUESTIONS

Please contact Dr. Jennifer Wheeler: jwheeler@planosymphony.org