



Byron Hester Competition

Preliminary Round: AUDIO RECORDING ONLINE SUBMISSION
Due by Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 11:59 PM

Final Round: LIVE PERFORMANCE
Saturday, April 11, 2026
UH Moores School of Music

Eligibility and Contest Rules:

The competition is open to any flute player who is a member of the Houston Flute Club. **There is NO AGE LIMIT to this competition.**

All applications, audio recordings, and club memberships must be submitted online by Sunday, February 8, 2026 (11:59 PM) at the Houston Flute Club website. Each piece required for the preliminary round should be recorded and uploaded as a separate mp3 file. Please label each of the audio recordings as Composer's Last Name_Your Last Name (i.e. Bach_Smith.mp3). The application fee is \$55 per entrant. *There will be a \$15 fee for late entries, if they are accepted.* Contestants who are not current members of HFC must have a membership by application deadline for your application to be accepted. Membership dues and competition fees are non-refundable.

The **preliminary round** will be held by ONLINE SUBMISSION of **AUDIO RECORDINGS ONLY** for each individual piece and is required for the preliminary round of competition. No accompaniment is required or may be included for the preliminary round. The judges will determine the number of contestants (*up to 5*) to continue to the final round, along with 2 alternate finalists. The judges' decisions are final. Finalists will be announced by **Sunday, February 22, 2026** through an email to all competitors from the BH Coordinator. Names of finalists will be posted on the Houston Flute Club Facebook and Instagram page after the preliminary round results are complete. The BH Coordinator will contact each of the finalists to review information for the final round of competition. Finalists must notify the BH Coordinator of their intent to participate in the final round no later than **Wednesday, March 11, 2026**.

The **final round** for the competition will be a LIVE PERFORMANCE held on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, at the Houston Flute Club Flute Fest. Contestants must provide their own accompanist, but contact information will be provided for a Houston-based accompanist with availability. Any contestant who is not present for the final round will forfeit their position and will not be considered for an award. The final round will be open to the public. The judges' decisions are final and the winners will be announced during the Flute Fest's Closing Ceremony on Saturday, April 11, 2026 (we strongly encourage all finalists to be present).

Items of note:

- Online application form may be accessed at: <http://www.houstonfluteclub.org/competitions>
- **Participants that have won 1st prize in the competition previously will NOT be qualified to compete in following years.**
- Please submit audio only mp3 recordings for the recorded round. No video recordings.
- A time limit, as described below, will be strictly enforced for the final round.
- **Final Round ONLY:** Judges' comments will be available at the Flute Fest Closing Ceremony on the day of competition.
- Participants not complying with the above rules and the repertoire requirements below will be disqualified.
- One **original copy of each finalist's repertoire** must be presented to the BH coordinator prior the start of the Final Round of competition and may be picked up immediately following the finals. An emailed PDF scan is also permitted, provided it is sent before the day of the competition so that it may be printed for the judges' use.
- Contestants are bound to their chosen final round repertoire. No changes are permitted.
- Finalists will be responsible for securing and paying for their pianist's fee in the final round. Houston Flute Club will share the contact information for a pianist with confirmed availability on the day of the Flute Fest. Finalists can choose to contact this pianist or use another of their choice. Rehearsals will be arranged between the finalist and pianist.
- Finalists will perform in randomized order during the Final Round.
- Finalists have until **March 11, 2026** to confirm participation in the Final Round.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS:

Recorded Round:

- *move it* by Carlos Simon (available for purchase on composer's website) **Note: please record this piece on C flute**
- Joachim Andersen, Op. 15 No. 3. (any edition)

Final Round:

- *move it* by Carlos Simon (on C flute)
- Work of performer's choice for flute and piano, 10 minutes maximum (multiple movements from the same work permitted, but not from different works)

AWARDS:

1. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$1500 and will be invited to perform at the Houston Flute Club's Flute Fest in 2027.
2. At the recommendation of the judges, the HFC reserves the right to not select a winner.
3. All judges' decisions are final.

CONTACT:

Application and more information are available at:

www.HoustonFluteClub.org | ByronHesterCompetition@gmail.com