

 CelloFest 2026 Concerto Competitions
CSUF Claves Performing Arts Center | July 20, 2026

OVERVIEW

Open to cellists of all nationalities and backgrounds. Finalists will perform live, and winners of each division will appear as soloists with the *CelloFest* String Ensemble at the Gala Concert on July 25, 2026.

ROUNDS

Preliminary (Online)

- Unlisted YouTube video (one take per movement; no edits within movements)
- Deadline: June 20, 2026
- [Application Form](#)
- Accompaniment recommended (piano reduction acceptable)
- Finalists notified early July

Final (In Person)

- Date/Location: July 20, 2026 / CSUF School of Music (Claves Performing Arts Center)
- Finalists perform before a panel of judges
- Accompaniment required (piano reduction acceptable): bring your own

DIVISIONS

- Junior
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Pre-college
- Young Adult
- Prodigy (special award)
- Virtuoso (special award)

REQUIREMENTS

- Enter one or two Divisions (Main and Special)
- One work from each Division list
- Accompaniment required for the Final Round (piano reduction acceptable)
- Memorization is recommended
- Final round repertoire must match the preliminary submission

JUDGING

- Technique & accuracy
- Musical expression & phrasing
- Tone quality
- Rhythm & ensemble awareness
- Overall artistic presentation

AWARDS

- Multiple prize winners per Division, including one featured soloist

- Winners will be featured as soloists to perform with the *CelloFest* String Ensemble at the Gala Concert (Winners Concert) on July 25.

FEES

- \$100 per application (non-*CelloFest* participants) | \$50 per application (*CelloFest* participants)
- \$20 per application for current and incoming CSUF music major cello students (Fall 2026)
- Each Division entry requires a separate application & fee.
- For multi-soloists concerto (e.g., Vivaldi Double Concerto), each performer must submit a separate application & fee.
- All application fees are non-refundable.

POLICIES

- Applicants may apply to one Main Division and may additionally apply to one Special Award Division (separate application & fee required).
- All jury decisions are final.
- *CelloFest* reserves the right to combine divisions or withhold prizes if necessary.

KEY DATES

- June 20, 2026: Application & video submission deadline ([Apply here](#))
- July 20, 2026: Final round (CSUF Claves Performing Arts Center)
- July 25, 2026: Gala Concert (Winners Concert)

DIVISIONS & REPERTOIRE (choose ONE work per Division) – (Age as of June 20, 2026)

Main Divisions

Junior Division (Age 11 and under)

- Beethoven Concerto in D: III. Rondo
- Haydn Concerto in C: I or III
- Klengel Concertino in C: III
- Saint-Saëns *The Swan*
- Saint-Saëns Concerto No. 1 in A minor: (section) I
- Squire *Tarantella*, Op. 23
- Vivaldi Concerto in D, Op. 3, No. 9: I. Allegro
- Vivaldi “Double” Concerto in G minor, RV 531: I (*separate applications & fees for each performer*)

Intermediate Division (12–13)

- J.C. Bach Concerto in C minor: I or III
- Boccherini Concerto in G or B-flat: I (Grützmacher)
- Fauré *Après un Rêve*
- Goltermann *Capriccio*, Op. 24
- Haydn Concerto in C: I or III
- Popper *Spinning Song*, Op. 55, No. 1 / *Tarantella*, Op. 33
- Saint-Saëns Concerto No. 1 in A minor: (section) I
- Vivaldi “Double” Concerto in G minor, RV 531: I (*separate applications & fees for each performer*)

Advanced Division (14–15)

- Bloch *Prayer* (from *Jewish Life*)
- Boccherini Concerto in G or B-flat: I (Grützmacher)
- Haydn Concerto in C: I or III
- Rachmaninoff *Vocalise*
- Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op.33 (Fitzenhagen ver.): Theme & Var. I-II
- Vivaldi “Double” Concerto in G minor, RV 531: III (*separate applications & fees for each performer*)
- Weber *Adagio & Rondo*

Pre-College Division (16–17)

- Boccherini Concerto in B-flat: I (Grützmacher)
- Bruch *Kol Nidrei*
- Davidoff *At the Fountain*
- Granados *Intermezzo (Goyescas)*
- Haydn Concerto in C or D (Gendron edition for D): I or III
- Popper *Polonaise de Concert*, Op. 14
- Ravel *Pièce en forme de Habanera*
- Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op.33 (Fitzenhagen ver.): Theme & Var. I-II

Young Adult Division (18+)

- Boccherini Concerto in B-flat: I (Grützmacher)
- Bruch *Kol Nidrei*
- Haydn Concerto in C or D (Gendron edition for D): III
- Rimsky-Korsakov *Flight of the Bumblebee*
- Tchaikovsky *Pezzo Capriccioso*, Op. 62
- Tchaikovsky *Valse Sentimentale*
- Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op.33 (Fitzenhagen ver.): Theme & Var. I-III

Special Award Divisions (separate entry)

Applicants may enter one Main Division and may optionally apply to one Special Award Division with a separate application & fee.

Prodigy Award Division (Age 15 and under)

For exceptionally advanced young players

Separate application & fee

- Davidoff *At the Fountain*
- François Schubert *L'Abeille (The Bee)*
- Haydn Concerto in D (Gendron edition): III
- Rimsky-Korsakov *Flight of the Bumblebee*
- Tchaikovsky *Pezzo Capriccioso*, Op. 62

Virtuoso Award Division (16+)

For high-level, technically demanding repertoire

Separate application & fee

- Cassado *Dance of the Green Devil*
- Fauré *Papillon*, Op. 77
- Paganini *Variations on One String on a Theme by Rossini*
- Popper *Elfentanz*, Op. 39