

BMSO 2026-27 Young Artist Competition Policies

Senior Division

- Application Deadline:** Preliminary applications & recording must be received by Friday, October 16, 2026.
Finalists will be notified by Monday, October 23, 2026 and invited to audition in Bismarck. Finals will be open to the public.
- Date of Finals:** Saturday, November 7, 2026
- Location of Finals:** BSC, Sydney J Lee auditorium
- Award(s):** A performance as featured soloist with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, April 10, 2026 and a cash prize of \$1,000. Winner will perform entire concerto with the BMSO.
Additional non-cash / acknowledgement awards may be determined at the judges' discretion.
- To Apply:** Visit <http://www.BismarckMandanSymphony.org/education/young-artist-competition> for submission instructions, including:
- A completed application form
 - A recording of one movement from selected concerto
 - A brief resume of your musical and educational history, such as grade level, years of music study, previous prizes/awards in other competitions, previous public performances, personal goals, and current/past teachers
 - \$25 application fee
 - Meet the minimum age requirement – must be 17-24 on November 7, 2026
- Eligibility:** Age requirement as noted above
Currently enrolled as an undergraduate student in a North Dakota college/university in 2026-27 or status as a high school senior in one of the following counties in south-central & western North Dakota:
Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, Lamoure, Logan, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Olivier, Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Stutsman, Wells, Williams
Competition is open to the following orchestral instruments: woodwinds, brass, strings, harp, piano, percussion, and classical guitar.
The winner of the Senior Division competition will perform with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra at its concert on Saturday, April 10, 2027 at the Belle Mehus Auditorium in Bismarck. The concerto will be performed in its entirety, although only one movement will be played for the competition. The winner must be available for two rehearsals prior to the performance date: the evenings of Thursday, April 8 and Friday, April 9, 2027. Formal concert attire is required. Travel to and accommodation in Bismarck is at the expense of the artist.
Past senior divisions winners are ineligible.
High school seniors may compete in either the Junior Division OR the Senior Division, but not both.
- Repertoire:** Applicants should perform *one movement* from a standard concerto for their instrument or a similar work. Orchestral accompaniment must be available for the work. *The Bismarck-Mandan Symphony reserves the right to refuse a concerto selection based on its cost or availability. Please call prior to submitting recording to confirm if you wish to compete with anything composed after 1900.*
The single movement must be memorized if invited to the Finals in Bismarck. Winner of the Senior Division will have the option to use music in the April performance of the entire concerto.
Maximum length of the movement should not exceed 15 minutes. Minimum length is 4 minutes. After the entry has been received, repertoire changes will not be permitted without the approval of the Music Director of the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony.
Contestants must provide their own accompanist. A list of Bismarck-area accompanists is available upon request.
- Application Fee:** A \$25 non-refundable application fee must be submitted with preliminary recording and completed application.
- Judging Decision:** The winner will be announced following the final auditions. All judges' decisions are final.
- Questions:** Contact the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra Phone: (701) 258-8345
Email: YAC@midconetwork.com Website: <http://www.BismarckMandanSymphony.org>