

BMSO 2026-27 Young Artist Competition Policies

Vocal 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, 2027 and a cash prize of \$500. Winner will perform one vocal selection (opera aria or other as deemed appropriate) 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 your vocal selection
 - 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 in a North Dakota college/university in 2026-27
The winner of the Vocal 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 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 vocal division winners are ineligible.
- Repertoire:** Vocal Applicants should perform one selection (opera aria, art song) from the standard repertoire. Orchestral accompaniment must be available for the work. *The Bismarck-Mandan Symphony reserves the right to refuse a 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 vocal selection must be memorized if invited to the Finals in Bismarck.
Maximum length of the selection should not exceed 10 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>