

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition Rules and Regulations for 2023

Eligibility.

The competition is limited to young musicians in two categories: 1) Age 18 and younger; currently enrolled in secondary school (or a homeschool program) and 2) Age 18-25; post-secondary school. The competition is limited to musicians residing in a 130-mile radius of Virginia, MN. (Musicians who are members of Mesabi Symphony Orchestra are also eligible to compete.) Previous winners cannot reapply. The audition is open to vocal, instrumental, and piano students. If selected as a winner in the 18 and younger category, the musician must qualify within the guidelines on the date of the concerts. If selected as a winner in the 18-25 category, the upper age limit is enforced on the date of the auditions.

Rules.

Vocalists must prepare two contrasting selections. Instrumentalists must prepare a movement from the chosen work for that instrument (if it is a multi-movement piece), but preparation of the work in its entirety is encouraged. Chosen work(s) must be from the standard literature with orchestral accompaniment, limited to the instrumentation of the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra. Orchestra accompaniments must be readily available and not cost-prohibitive. If in doubt, please inquire if your piece is appropriate. Memorization is strongly advised at auditions. Memorization will be considered in selection of winners. Entrants must supply two copies of their music for the judges; at least one must be an original. Applicants not performing from memory need an original copy of their music, and all accompanists must perform off originals. **All finalists are to provide their own prepared accompanist for the live audition.**

Application Process.

Applications are due by March 31, 2023. You must submit a digital recording (audio or video) no longer than 10 minutes by uploading to YouTube, Vimeo, or other similar public streaming/filesharing service. In the description section, please include the following: Full Name, Category, City/State of Residence, School (if applicable), Private Instructor (if applicable), Repertoire Selection(s), Date of Recording. Once your recording is uploaded, please email board@mesabisymphonyorchestra.org with the link. This email will serve as your application. In your email, please include a contact phone number. If you have password-protected your video/recording, please provide the password in this email. Accompaniment is not required for this recorded portion. There is no audition fee. Recordings must have been made within the past 6 months as of March 31, 2023. Recordings submitted for the application **do not** need to be the same repertoire with which you intend to audition in person. If the repertoire is different, please indicate in your email application what selection(s) you would perform at the live audition.

Audition Schedule.

Finalists will be notified by April 1, 2023. Only the most qualified contestants will be selected to compete in the live auditions. Each finalist will be given 15 minutes to perform on stage. If your selection is longer than 15 minutes, prepare sections that will best demonstrate and

highlight your abilities. An accompanist is required for the live auditions - a Steinway grand piano will be available for contestants and their accompanists to use. An additional upright piano will be available for pianists' accompanists. **All finalists must provide their own accompanist for the live audition – accompanists will not be provided. The date of the live auditions is the evening of April 6, 2023. They will be held in the Goodman Auditorium at Virginia High School, Virginia, MN.**

Judges.

The judging panel will include Sheila Wilcox, MSO Concertmaster and Rock Ridge High School Orchestra Director, and Benjamin Nilles, MSO Artistic Director and Conductor. Other judges, including musicians from the orchestra, will also be part of the panel.

Results.

The results of the live audition will be announced on or before April 10, 2023. Up to one winner in each age-group category will be chosen. Judging panel reserves the right to choose no winners. If no winner is chosen in an age-group category, two winners may be chosen from the other category.

Awards.

18-25; post-secondary school - \$350 prize

18 and younger; secondary school - \$250 prize

Availability.

By winning the Competition, the winner(s) will be contracted to perform with the MSO in the 2023-2024 concert season. Final details and schedule are TBD. A separate contract will be executed between each winner and the MSO. The MSO rehearses Monday evenings and the winner(s) need to be available for evening rehearsals, including the Dress Rehearsal with the orchestra. Exact rehearsal schedules and number of rehearsals to be attended will be determined in consultation the Artistic Director.

Artistic Competency.

Winner(s) must come prepared to orchestra rehearsals with the same artistic level as demonstrated at the live auditions on April 6, 2023. If the Artistic Director deems any winner as under-prepared during rehearsals or not satisfactory to perform with the MSO, Artistic Director reserves the right to remove any winner from the concerts. This will not constitute breach of contract.