

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition Rules and Regulations for 2020

Eligibility.

The competition is limited to students in two categories – secondary school and younger, and college through age 25. The competition is limited to US students residing in a 130-mile radius of Virginia, MN. (College and high school students 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.

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 April 27, 2020. You must submit a digital recording (audio or video) no longer than 10 minutes by uploading to YouTube, Vimeo, or other similar public streaming service. In the description section, please include the following: Full Name, Category (high school or college-age), 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 April 6, 2020. 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 28, 2020. 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. 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 May 5, 2020. 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 Virginia-Eveleth-Gilbert 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 May 8, 2020. Up to one winner in each age-group category will be chosen. Judging panel reserves 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.

College through age 25 prize - \$350
High school and younger prize - \$250

Availability.

By winning the Competition, winner(s) will be contracted to perform on two (2) concerts in February 2021. 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 orchestral rehearsals with the same artistic level as demonstrated at the live auditions on May 5, 2020. 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.