

BMSO 2025-26 Young Artist Competition Policies

Junior Division

- Application Deadline:** Preliminary applications & recording must be received by Friday, October 3, 2025.
Finalists will be notified by Monday, October 13, 2025 and invited to audition in Bismarck. Finals will be open to the public.
- Date of Finals:** Saturday, November 1, 2025
- Location of Finals:** Bismarck State College – Sidney J Lee Auditorium
- Award(s):** **1st place:** A performance as soloist with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at the Belle Mehus Auditorium and a cash award of \$500
2nd place: Will be announced, may be asked to perform with either BMSO or BMSYO at the discretion of the music director at some point in the 25-26 season
3rd place: Will be announced
Additional non-cash / acknowledgement awards may be determined at the judges' discretion.
- To Apply:** Please meet the following requirements for consideration:
- Submit a completed application form (opposite side)
 - Submit a CD/DVD recording or electronic file of one movement from selected concerto
Check to make sure your recording will play properly before submitting.
 - Submit a brief resume of your musical and educational history, such as grade level, years of music study, previous prizes/awards, school achievements, and current/past teachers
 - Meet the minimum age requirement – 18 years or younger as of November 2, 2024
- Eligibility:** Age requirement as noted above
Currently enrolled in North Dakota high school, middle school, or home school 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 Junior Division competition will perform with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra at its April 11, 2026 concert in the Belle Mehus Auditorium in Bismarck. The winner must be available for two rehearsals prior to the performance date: the evenings of Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10, 2025. Concert attire is a nice suit or dress. Travel to and accommodation in Bismarck is at the expense of the artist.
Past winners are ineligible to compete in the junior division, but may compete in the senior division as long as they meet age requirements.
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 CD recording to confirm if you wish to compete with anything composed after 1900.*
Ideally, the work should be memorized, if invited to audition in Bismarck. However for Junior Division, this is not a requirement.
Maximum length of the solo 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>

