



young artist

COMPETITION

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION GUIDELINES- 2026

The Folsom Lake Symphony is proud to announce its fourth annual Young Artist Competition, a key part of the symphony's Emerging Artists Program. The competition jury will be chaired by the symphony's music director and conductor, Peter Jaffe, and will be held at the Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College. The competition is made possible thanks to the Georgette Pauwels and Réal Desrochers Grant for Emerging Artists.

Cash awards are given to the Division winners and the Grand Prize winner. All winners will perform at the Young Artists Recital. The Grand Prize winner will also perform with the Symphony at the Family Concert.

KEY DATES

September 1, 2026	Application process opens
September 30, 2026	Google form application, video link, and application fee must be submitted online by this date
October 22, 2026	All participants will be notified by this date if they advance to the live competition
November 21, 2026	Live Competition
January 31, 2027	Young Artists Recital
March 20, 2027	Grand Prize winner will be the guest artist at the Family Concert

AWARDS

All participants in the live competition will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Winners of the live competition will receive a certificate and a cash prize awarded at the Young Artists Recital.

The Grand Prize winner will perform with the Folsom Lake Symphony at the March 20, 2027 annual Family Concert.

All winners will receive a professional video clip of their performance at the recital for personal use.

Adjudication remark sheets will be provided to all live competition contestants after the results have been announced.

In rare cases, the symphony reserves the right not to award the Grand Prize.

The Grand Prize winner will receive a cash award of \$1,000, and the Division winners will receive awards of \$500 each after the soloists have made their required appearances. The Grand Prize winner award is paid in two \$500 cash awards, once after each required performance.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must be between the ages of 8 and 18 on the day of competition and reside in El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sutter, Yolo, or Yuba counties, OR be a family member or student of a regular Folsom Lake Symphony musician.

Applicants must be highly accomplished orchestral instrumentalists, pianists, or vocalists.

Previous Division First Prize winners are eligible to compete in the same division again, but ONLY for the Grand Prize.

Previous Grand Prize winners are NOT eligible for this competition.

DIVISIONS

The competition is divided into three age groups with audition time limits as follows:

Division I	Division II	Division III
Ages 8-11	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-18
6 Minutes	8 Minutes	10 Minutes

Instrumentalists, pianists, and vocalists will compete against each other within age group divisions.

Participants may compete on an additional instrument or voice if they are exceptionally developed in both areas.

REPERTOIRE

Selection should be chosen to best represent the applicant's musicianship and talent. Candidates hoping for a Grand Prize appearance with the Folsom Lake Symphony should select a piece or movement lasting no more than 15 minutes. An obtainable orchestral accompaniment must exist.

The submitted audition piece must be the same as that performed at the live competition and recital – no substitutions.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (Online submissions only)

Audition Packet must include the following:

Completed application (use the Google form).

The YouTube link to your unedited digital recording emailed to yac@folsomlakesymphony.com. Physical media or Dropbox will not be accepted. The recording should be clearly labeled with the applicant's name, age, title of the piece, movement, and composer.

A non-refundable entry fee of \$50. Payment must be made online at www.folsomlakesymphony.com/yac/ by midnight September 30, 2026.

Exceptional applicants may participate in two categories by submitting two separate applications.

For repertoire requiring accompaniment, applicants must provide their own accompanist for the recorded audition, live competition, and recital.

The application packet via Google Forms, the YouTube digital recording link via email, and the application fee are due by midnight on September 30, 2026.

Any questions can be sent to yac@folsomlakesymphony.com

LIVE COMPETITION

Perform the same composition as performed for the recorded audition.

For repertoire requiring accompaniment, applicants must provide their own accompanist for the live competition and recital. Repertoire that would not require an accompanist would be a piece specifically written as a solo composition, such as a solo piano sonata or solo (unaccompanied) instrumental sonata.

Adhere to the performance time limits for each division. Exceeding the limit may result in being stopped mid-performance.

Provide scanned music score via email prior to live competition, to be distributed in advance to the judges.

Memorization of the music is required.

The performance schedule and further directions will be sent to those advancing to the live competition.

YOUNG ARTISTS RECITAL

All winners of the live competition receive a Certificate of Merit, a cash award, and a video of their individual recital performance for their personal use.

All winners must perform at the Young Artists Recital or forfeit their monetary award.

If you have questions, please visit our website at
www.folsomlakesymphony.com/yac/
or contact competition chairperson Sarah Kooshian:
sarah.kooshian@folsomlakesymphony.com