

American String Teachers Association Bakersfield Section

2026 Annual Solo Strings *Festival Guidelines*

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Valley Baptist Church (4800 Fruitvale Ave.)

There are two different events on the same day, fill out the application for the appropriate event – *The Bakersfield ASTA Festival* or the Competition on the other page.

Festival Guidelines

1. The Bakersfield ASTA Solo String Festival is open to students of bowed string instruments: violin, viola, cello and bass.
2. Students must live within the area of the Bakersfield ASTA section (Kern County)
3. The Festival is open to ages 5-25.
4. Students may play one or two pieces, memorization is not required.
5. Verbal comments may be given, as time permits. The playing time must be 7 minutes or less and the time slot is 10 minutes.
6. All entrants will receive written comments from two highly qualified judges.
7. Accompanists are not required but if there is a piano part, it is highly recommended that it be played.
8. Students must choose between entering the Festival OR the Competition, but not both in any given year.
9. Fees for students of ASTA Members is \$25. Fees for non-members is \$35.
10. Your teacher may choose to join ASTA on the application for the member fee.

Please complete the Festival Application and send Festival Fees to:

CalASTA - Bakersfield
c/o Ambra Ortiz
2800 Agate Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

You may also send paperwork by email and money by ZELLE to ASTA.Bakersfield@gmail.com

2026 Annual Bakersfield Section ASTA Solo Festival Application

Application Deadline: Postmarked or emailed by Saturday, March 21, 2026 before midnight, 12 a.m.

The application and appropriate fees made payable to CalASTA Bakersfield Section must be postmarked no later than Saturday, March 21, 2026. Or emailed with fees paid through Zelle. An entrance fee of \$25.00 must accompany each application. \$35 for non-members.

Teacher _____ Phone _____

Teacher's ASTA Membership Number _____ or Non-Member _____

Student Name _____ Instrument _____

Address/ZIP _____

Phone _____ Birth Date _____ Age _____

E-mail Address _____

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Name of Accompanist \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

First Selection (Title/Key/Opus #) \_\_\_\_\_ Movement \_\_\_\_\_

Composer \_\_\_\_\_ Playing Time \_\_\_\_\_

Second Selection (*optional*) (Title/Key/Opus #) \_\_\_\_\_ Movement \_\_\_\_\_

Composer \_\_\_\_\_ Playing Time \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please send the completed application with the \$25.00 application fee (\$35 for non-members) made payable to:

CalASTA - Bakersfield
c/o Ambra Ortiz
2800 Agate Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

You may also send paperwork by email and money by ZELLE to ASTA.Bakersfield@gmail.com

Application must be postmarked no later than March 21, 2026.
If you have any questions, please phone Amy McGuire at 661-858-9332.

American String Teachers Association Bakersfield Section

2026 Annual Solo Strings Competition Guidelines

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Valley Baptist Church (4800 Fruitvale Ave.)

There are two different events on the same day, fill out the application for the appropriate event – The Bakersfield ASTA Competition or the Festival on the first page.

Competition Guidelines

The Bakersfield ASTA Solo String Competition is a competitive event open to bowed string instrument players ages 5-25. Winners of this Competition may be invited to participate in the Cal ASTA Bi-Annual State Competition in the Fall of 2026.

Eligibility: The Competition includes instrument categories for violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Teachers of participants must be active members of ASTA, or the participant must be an active student member of ASTA. The Competition is divided into two age divisions: Junior (age 5 through age 13), and Senior (age 14 through 25). The age cutoff date is April 11, 2026.

Proof of age is required: A photocopy of birth certificate, driver's license or passport must accompany the application. Students who received cash awards from previous years are not eligible to compete this year unless they have aged up into the Senior Division.

Repertoire & Performance: **All music must be memorized.** Two works (or movements of works) from contrasting periods are required: One piece from the Baroque or Classical period, and one from the Romantic or 21st-Century period. Total playing time should not exceed twelve (12) minutes. Time slots are 15 minutes. **Piano accompaniment is required unless performing an unaccompanied piece.**

Both judges must be provided a full original score of each work. No photocopies are allowed, unless they are digital copies with a purchase receipt. Photocopies (for the students or the judges) not meeting these standards will result in immediate disqualification.

Awards, Prizes & Winner's Promotion: All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation, and written comments from two judges. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place, and Honorable Mention Certificates may be given in each age division, at the discretion of the two judges. Winners in each instrument category and the appropriate age divisions may be invited to participate in the CalASTA bi-annual State Competition in the Fall of 2026. Select players may be invited to perform at Bakersfield ASTA's 2026 Fall Workshop. Judges may award prizes for each age division: 1st Place - \$100.00 cash prize, 2nd Place - \$50.00, and 3rd Place - \$25.00. The award money may be given to a single winner or multiple winners at the judges' discretion. Bakersfield ASTA reserves the right to cancel the competition or withhold cash prizes if fewer than ten (10) applicants per age division apply.

2026 Bakersfield ASTA Solo Strings
Competition Application

Application Deadline: Postmarked or emailed by Saturday, March 21, 2026 before midnight, 12 a.m.

The application and appropriate fees made payable to CalASTA Bakersfield Section must be postmarked no later than Saturday, March 21, 2026. Or emailed with fees paid through Zelle. An entrance fee of \$35.00 must accompany each application.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Teacher's Name _____ Teacher's Email _____

Teacher's Signature _____ Teacher's ASTA ID# _____ (Required)



Participant's Name _____ Age _____ Instrument _____

Address/ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check One:

Junior Division (age 5 through age 13) _____ Senior Division (age 14 through age 25) _____

Repertoire: (One piece from the Baroque or Classical period, and one from the Romantic or 21st-Century period)

1. _____ Composer Work Movement Length

2. _____ Composer Work Movement Length

The total playing time for my selected repertoire is twelve (12) minutes or under. I have included proof of age (copy of birth certificate, driver's license or passport). I have enclosed a check for \$35.00 payable to CalASTA - Bakersfield for the Competition fee. I will provide both judges with a full original score of each work. I understand that photocopies are not allowed and will result in my immediate disqualification.

COMPETITION DEADLINE: March 21, 2026. Postmarked or emailed by midnight

PLEASE MAIL THE COMPETITION APPLICATION, FEES, PROOF OF AGE, AND CHECK(S) TO:

CalASTA - Bakersfield
c/o Ambra Ortiz
2800 Agate Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

You may also send paperwork by email and money by ZELLE to ASTA.Bakersfield@gmail.com

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ASTA-Bakersfield Section SOLO RECITALS/COMPETITIONS

(for teachers, students, parents, judges, chairpersons and assistants)

1. All participants agree to abide by the Solo Recital/Competition rules as stated in the GUIDELINES.
2. All participants agree to act with integrity, professionalism and respect at all times. (See below for definitions and expectations).
3. All participants agree to place both the integrity of the competition and the interests of all participating students above their own personal interests. This competition is first and foremost to be an educational experience for the students of our members.
4. For suggestions or concerns, participants agree to follow the procedures set by the Board: a. Communication shall be succinct and clearly stated. b. Send via email to the Competition Chair as well as to the President of the Section.
5. If, after review by the ASTA-BAKERSFIELD Board, a person is determined to have violated any part of this Code of Conduct, ASTA-BAKERSFIELD Section reserves the right to refuse future participation in the ASTA-BAKERSFIELD Solo Recital-Competition to that person. The ASTA Solo Recitals, Festivals and Competitions are administered by volunteers. There are several events run by ASTA-BAKERSFIELD. Neither teachers nor students are required to participate if they are not happy with the procedures and policies set forth in this document.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR ASTA EVENTS

ASTA-BAKERSFIELD Section defines integrity as honesty and fairness. No competitor, teacher, parent, or chair will attempt to influence the opinions of the judges (and no one other than judges shall participate in the deliberations of the judges).

ASTA-BAKERSFIELD Section defines professionalism as restraint and self-control in personal behavior, as well as commitment to the ASTA organization. In the Solo Recital/Competition environment, every effort should be made to keep anxiety to a minimum. A professional maintains a calm demeanor, regardless of circumstances. A professional believes in the mission of the ASTA organization and works toward that same goal: the advancement and promotion of string playing and teaching.

ASTA-BAKERSFIELD section defines respect as acting and speaking in ways that encourage and support performers to do their best, and acknowledging the efforts and commitment of organizers, other teachers, and the parents and family of the competitors.

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THIS CODE OF CONDUCT:

_____ (student signature) (date) _____

_____ (print student name)

_____ (parent/guardian signature, if above is under age 18) (date) _____

_____ (print parent/guardian name)