

48th Annual Young Artist Competition January 24, 2027

Sponsored by Black Hills Symphony League

Questions: Please call the BHSO Office at 605-348-4676 or email – bhso@rapidnet.com

Rules and Information:

1. Competition is open to high school instrumentalists in grades 9 through 12 and living within a 180-mile radius of Rapid City. The Junior division is open to students in 9th or 10th grades with a maximum age of 17) and Senior Division is open to those in 11th and 12th grades (with a maximum age of 19).
2. Instruments allowed for competition: all standard orchestral instruments. Electric or amplified instruments will not be permitted.
- 3. Senior Applicants: please select a performance piece that has easily available orchestra accompaniment. If you win the contest but your piece does not have orchestral accompaniment that is available from an American music publisher, you may not be allowed to perform with the Black Hills Symphony.**

(Due to a compressed rehearsal schedule in early 2027, BHSO will NOT be able to order orchestral arrangements from overseas publishers. Please check that your performance selection is available from an American music publisher and that publisher may be different from the solo edition publisher. If you aren't sure about it, please contact our Librarian, Nancy Olney to check. You can email her at bhso@rapidnet.com)

4. Applicants must be recommended by their school music director or private music teacher.
5. Entrants may only compete on one instrument per competition.
6. **Applicants must submit all of the following items by email or mail to Black Hills Symphony Orchestra, dated or postmarked no later than Monday, December 14, 2026**

By Mail:

Send to BHSO, Attn: Young Artist Competition, PO Box 2246, Rapid City, SD 57709

- Completed application form
- CD, video/DVD, or YouTube link of entrant performing competition solo with piano accompaniment
- Entry Fee - \$65 Senior Division or \$45 Junior Division. Check can be mailed or call BHSO Office (605-348-4676) to pay by Credit Card

By Email:

Send to bhso@rapidnet.com

Subject Line: Young Artist Competition Application

- PDF of completed application form
 - YouTube link of entrant performing competition solo with piano accompaniment
 - Entry Fee - \$65 Senior Division or \$45 Junior Division. Check can be mailed separately (BHSO, Attn: Young Artist Competition, PO Box 2246, Rapid City, SD 57709) or call BHSO Office (605-348-4676) to pay by Credit
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1. The First Place Winner of the Senior Division may not compete again on the same instrument but may compete another year on a different instrument. Junior Division winner may compete in following year(s) on the same instrument.
2. Competition Date:
 - January 9, 2027
3. Competition Location:
 - First United Methodist Church
629 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, South Dakota.
 - Contestants should plan on being available for the entire day in order to be present at their assigned competition time and at the awards ceremony.
4. Applicants must provide their own accompanist and three copies of their music for the judges. Applicants must bring the three copies to the Friday, January 8, 2027 rehearsal, or they will not be allowed to perform on Saturday, January 9, 2027.
5. Solo must be memorized.
6. Solo must be limited to 15 minutes or less.
7. **Senior Division solos must have a published orchestral accompaniment.** Students must obtain verification that orchestral accompaniment is available.
8. The solo must be played in its entirety, except for the standard cuts. If you are using standard cuts, please attach a list of cuts to your application.
9. Junior Division solos must have piano accompaniment. Repertoire with orchestral accompaniment is not required in the Junior Division.
10. If necessary, a qualified, impartial judge (who does not have a student applying for the competition), will adjudicate a preliminary round from the submitted recordings. The top 10 applicants in each division will proceed to the competition on January 9, 2027. The CDs/DVDs will be returned to musicians at the competition. All applicants will be notified as to the status of their application by December 21, 2026.
11. All participants will be limited to an assigned time to rehearse with their accompanist at First United Methodist Church on the Friday before the competition. Participants will not be allowed to rehearse in the church on Friday, January 8, 2027 except during the times assigned to them. Participants will be assigned warm-up rooms and times on the day of the competition.
12. Competition times for Saturday, January 9, 2027 will be assigned at random. Competitors may not trade or request specific assigned times on Saturday.
13. All decisions of the judges are final. Judges have the authority to declare no winner. Competitors will receive written comments from the judges.
14. Winners will be announced at the completion of the competition at the awards ceremony. All competitors must attend the awards ceremony. Appropriate dress attire is required.
15. The winner from the Senior Division will play his/her solo with the BHSO on February 13, 2027, and receive a cash award of \$500. The second-place winner in the Senior Division will receive \$300. The first-place winner in the Junior Division will receive \$200. The second-place winner in the Junior Division will receive \$100. An honorable mention may be awarded at the judges' discretion for either/both divisions. There will be no monetary award for this distinction.
16. All competitors will receive a digital recording of their competition performance.
17. If, due to extreme circumstances, the winner is unable to perform with the orchestra on February 13, 2027, the Black Hills Symphony conductor may choose a replacement.
18. If, due to extreme circumstances, the concert is cancelled or postponed, BHSO may make a reasonable effort to find another performance opportunity for the YAC Senior Winner. However, the Winner must perform their competition piece and may not change to a different piece.