



Young Artist Competition – January 24, 2026

Junior Application (Grades 9 & 10)

APPLICATION DEADLINE – POSTMARKED, OR DIGITALLY SUBMITTED BY 12/22/25

Please review the competition rules, complete the information below and submit with the following:

By Mail:

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

1. Completed application form
2. CD, video/DVD, or YouTube link of entrant performing competition solo with piano accompaniment
3. Entry Fee - \$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

1. PDF of completed application form
2. YouTube link of entrant performing competition solo with piano accompaniment
3. Entry Fee - \$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 Card

Questions? Contact the BH Symphony Office 605-348-4676 or 605-484-9497.

or bhso@rapidnet.com

Applicant Information

Name_____

Complete Mailing Address_____

Phone Number_____

Email_____

School & Grade_____

Name of Solo (please include Opus & movement)_____

Composer_____

Publisher_____

Playing Time of Piece_____ (Maximum time 15 minutes)

Instrument_____

Instructor _____
(preferably private teacher, however High School Music Director is acceptable)

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Accompanist _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Rules and application form available at www.bhsymphony.org

As this student's teacher, I verify that the applicant is prepared to perform the selected solo.

Teacher's Signature _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

I have read the competition rules and allow my child to participate in the Competition.

Applicant's Parent's Signature: _____

47th Annual Young Artist Competition January 24, 2026

Sponsored by the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra and the Black Hills Symphony League

Questions: Please call the BHSO Office at 605-348-4676 or email info@bhsymphony.org

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. Applicants must be recommended by their school music director or private music teacher.
3. Entrants may only compete on one instrument per competition.
4. Instruments approved for competition: all standard orchestral instruments. All instruments must be acoustic and NOT amplified.
5. **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 22, 2025.**

By Mail:

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

- Completed application form
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- PDF of completed application form
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6. 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.
7. Competition Date:
 - January 24, 2026
8. Competition Location:

- First United Methodist Church, 629 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, South Dakota.
9. Applicants must provide their own accompanist and three copies of their music for the judges. Applicants must bring the three copies to either the Thursday, January 22, 2026 or Friday, January 23, 2026 rehearsals, or they will not be allowed to perform on Saturday, January 24, 2026.
 10. Solo must be memorized.
 11. **Solo must be limited to 15 minutes or less. Solos that exceed the 15 minute limit may be disallowed.**
 12. **Senior Division solos must have a published orchestral accompaniment.**
 13. The solo must be played in its entirety, except for the standard cuts. If you plan to use cuts please list them attached to your application.
 14. **Junior Division solos must have piano accompaniment.** Repertoire with orchestral accompaniment is not required in the Junior Division.
 15. 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 24, 2026. The CDs/DVDs will be returned to musicians at the competition. All applicants will be notified by email as to the status of their application once it is received.
 16. 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 Thursday, January 22, 2026 or Friday, January 23, 2026 except during the times assigned to them. Participants will be assigned warm-up rooms and times on the day of the competition.
 17. Competition times for Saturday, January 24, 2026 will be assigned at random. Competitors may not trade or request specific assigned times on Saturday.
 18. All decisions of the judges are final. Judges have the authority to declare no winner. Competitors will receive written comments from the judges.
 19. 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.
 20. The winner from the Senior Division will play his/her solo with the BHSO on February 28, 2026, 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.
 21. All competitors will receive a digital recording of their competition performance.
 22. If, due to extreme circumstances, the winner is unable to perform with the orchestra on February 28, 2026, the Black Hills Symphony conductor may choose a replacement.

Rules and application forms available at www.bhsymphony.org/youngartist.html