



**Young Artist Competition – January 24, 2026**

**Senior Application (Grades 11 & 12)**

**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 - \$65 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](mailto: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 - \$65 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](mailto: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](http://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:** \_\_\_\_\_

(If applicant is under age 18)

# 47<sup>th</sup> 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 [bhso@rapidnet.com](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grades with a maximum age of 17) and Senior Division is open to those in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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
- 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](mailto: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 Card.

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 include them in your music pre-registration.
  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 as to the status of their application by email when 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 either 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. 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.
  20. All competitors will receive an audio recording of their competition performance.
  21. 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](http://www.bhsymphony.org/youngartist.html)**