Young People’s Concerto Competition: Guidelines for Contestants

The Young People’s Symphony Concert Association (YPSCA) announces the 2020 YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTO COMPETITION (YPCC) for students in grades 7 through 12 who play one of the instruments consistently included within the Minnesota Orchestra. The top winner will be invited to perform with the Minnesota Orchestra in a set of Young People’s Concerts in the 2020-2021 season and will receive the $1,500 Edwin W. and Edith B. Norberg Trust Award. Other cash prizes and scholarships will also be presented.

KEY DATES:
Friday, January 24: Application Deadline
Sunday, March 1: Preliminary Competition, Orchestra Hall
Sunday, March 8: Finals, Orchestra Hall

APPLICATION:
Please review the information below before completing the online form found at https://www.cognitoforms.com/YPSCA/_63rdAnnualYPSCAConcertoCompetition

A non-refundable application fee of $50 must accompany each submission, due no later than Friday, January 24. Contact YPSCA with any questions at mail@ypsca.org

REPERTOIRE:
A major, standard-repertoire orchestral work with instrumental solo. Options include the first movement of a concerto, or the second and third movements together, or a major one-movement concert piece. Selection is subject to approval by the YPCC Committee, which in some cases may allow new or non-standard repertoire.

PERFORMANCE:
1. Playing time:
   a. Preliminary Competition: 5 minutes
   b. Finals: 5 to 8 minutes
2. All music must be memorized.
3. Performances must be done with piano accompaniment.
4. Contestants must supply their own accompanists.
5. Contestants should be prepared to be stopped and asked to proceed to another section at the discretion of the judges.

JUDGING:
Auditions are judged by experts in each area: strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion and keyboards.

ELIGIBLE INSTRUMENTS:
Violin, viola, cello, string bass, flute, piccolo, oboe, English horn, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp, keyboard.

Note: Any student who has performed as soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra as a result of winning the competition in a prior year is ineligible to apply for the current YPCC.