

School Music Auditions: Guidelines for Contestants

The Young People's Symphony Concert Association (YPSCA) announces the **2018 SCHOOL MUSIC AUDITIONS (SMA)** for students in grades 7 through 12 who are enrolled full-time in an accredited school in the Upper Midwest, and 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 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:

Monday, December 4: Application Deadline
Saturday, February 17: Prelims, Orchestra Hall
Sunday, February 25: Finals, Orchestra Hall

APPLICATION:

Please review the information below before completing [the online form](#). A non-refundable application fee of \$50 must accompany each submission, due no later than **Monday, December 4**. Contact YPSCA at mail@ypsca.org with any questions.

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 SMA Committee, which in some cases may allow new or non-standard repertoire.

PERFORMANCE:

1. Playing time:
 - a. Prelims: 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 SMA in a prior year is ineligible to apply for the current SMA.