

GUIDELINES
2019 SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition
Finals: Saturday, February 23, 2019

WHO MAY COMPETE

- Pre-college musicians 19 years of age or younger and not enrolled in a college degree program.
- Residents of Minnesota and neighboring states: Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin
- Non-conducted string and wind ensembles of 3-8 musicians playing classical chamber music repertoire
- Groups playing non-classical music in the CREATIVE division

Ensembles are not required to have a coach, but students are strongly encouraged to work with a teacher or other qualified adult musician.

Each ensemble, whether it is coached or not, must have a designated adult chaperone at the competition if they are chosen to compete in the Final round.

CATEGORIES

Classical – Senior Division

Students who are age 19 and under may compete for the First, Second or Third Prize

Classical – Junior Division

Ensembles in which the majority of performers are age 15 or under may compete for the Junior Division Prize

Creative Division

Students of any age may compete for the Creative Prize

INSTRUMENTATION

Classical: Any combination of the following instruments:

Strings: violin, viola, cello, string bass, guitar, harp and piano

Winds: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, brass and piano

Creative: Any instrument listed above, or instruments such as fiddle, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, maracas, accordion, or those played in national traditional music.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Applications will open on Monday, December 3, 2018. All materials and the competition fee must be received online getacceptd.com/spco no later than midnight **Tuesday, January 22, 2019**. Late entries will not be accepted.

RULES FOR ENTRY

- An ensemble that placed first in its division last year may not compete again in that division, but individual members may participate in that division again with no more than one original member in the new ensemble.
- An ensemble that did **not** place first in its division may enter the competition again with the same membership.
- An individual musician may perform in two ensembles, but only if colleagues in the second ensemble are completely different from colleagues in the first ensemble.
- Ensembles must retain through the Final round, the members and repertoire submitted with their application.

ENTRY FEE

The entry fee is \$50 per ensemble. This non-refundable fee must be paid online by credit card.

REPERTOIRE GUIDELINES

Each ensemble should prepare one piece or movement of at least 5 minutes in length but not exceeding 10 minutes in total playing time.

Classical – Choose repertoire from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th century and contemporary works. No jazz, rock or pop.

Creative – Choose from musical genres such as national traditional, fiddle, jazz, etc. Unusual combinations of instruments, arrangements and re-arrangements, improvisational sections and a blending of styles is encouraged, but not required.

Please contact us well in advance of recording your program if you are unsure of your repertoire choices. Repertoire questions may be directed to acconklin@comcast.net

MUSICAL SCORES:

For the Finals in the Classical category, two scores for the work performed must be presented to the judging panel. One copy must be an original or published score. The second may be a photocopy, to be submitted for one-time use. Scores will be returned to participants at the end of the competition.

ROUNDS

There will be just two rounds— the Video round and the Final round.

The Video Round:

- Each ensemble should submit a video recording of one complete piece or movement of at least 5 minutes in length, but not exceeding 10 minutes playing time.

- The video recording must show all ensemble members at all times.
- The picture must remain stationary (no panning, fade-in/fade-out or close-up techniques).
- The ensemble should fill the screen as much as possible.
- Each piece must be a complete take, with no editing.
- After recording their video(s), ensemble should upload it to getacceptd.com/spco, following the instructions within the online application.
- Label the video(s) in this manner: Ensemble name, composer last name, composition name and movement (if applicable). Example: *The Diamond Trio; Beethoven Piano Trio in D Major, Opus 70; 1. Allegro vivace con brio.*

Need help *uploading your videos*? Contact support@getacceptd.com

The Final Round:

- The Video Round judges will select the ensembles that will compete in the Final Round on **Saturday, February 23, 2019**.
- Please choose attire that best represents your group.
- The Finals are free and open to the public.
- Performances will be followed by a reception and awards ceremony.

PRIZES AND AWARDS:

Classical – Senior Division

First Place: **\$1,000**, Whitacre medal, and appearance in the Ordway Concert Hall on Saturday, May 18

Second Place: **\$750**

Third Place: **\$500**

Classical – Junior Division

First Place - **\$500**

Creative Division

First Place - **\$500**

Judges' Discretionary Prize: \$300

Judges, if they so choose, may grant this prize to any finalist group that they feel deserves additional or special recognition.

Audience Favorite: Members of the audience will receive a ballot to indicate which ensemble was their favorite. This is a non-monetary award.

TIMELINE:

December 3, 2018— Start date for receiving online applications

Tuesday, January 22, 2019—Absolute deadline for receiving applications

Week of February 4, 2019—All entering ensembles will be notified as to whether or not they have been selected to perform in the Finals.

Critiques from judges will be sent to each ensemble's coach or contact person.

Saturday, February 23, 2019— Competition Finals and Awards in Sundin Hall, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN. 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18, 2019 — Winning ensemble performance at the Ordway preceding the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra concert.

CHECKLIST FOR ALL ENSEMBLES:

- Submit application to getacceptd.com/spco beginning Monday, December 3, 2018 but no later than **Tuesday, January 22, 2019**
- Student and Repertoire information
- Video of performance (please include name of ensemble with video)
- Contact person for ensemble
- Coach of ensemble (if applicable)
- Photo of ensemble
- Bio of ensemble
- Entry Fee of \$50