

# west suburban symphony

## 2023-24 YOUTH SOLO COMPETITION

The West Suburban Symphony Society is pleased to announce its 75th annual solo competition for string, woodwind, brass, and vocal musicians in grades 9-12. On May 19, 2024, the winner will receive a \$500 cash prize and perform in a 3:30 pm concert at Wentz Hall, Naperville, Illinois, with the West Suburban Symphony Orchestra.

Application materials are available at [www.westsubsymphony.org/solo-competition](http://www.westsubsymphony.org/solo-competition) . To contact us: use [www.westsubsymphony.org/contact-us](http://www.westsubsymphony.org/contact-us) or send an email to [solocontest@westsubsymphony.org](mailto:solocontest@westsubsymphony.org).

### Schedule

January 27, 2024	Application postmark deadline
February 10, 2024	Notification of finalists
February 24, 2024	Live auditions for finalists
May 14 and May 17, 2024	Winner rehearses with orchestra
May 19, 2024	Winner rehearses and performs with orchestra

### Contest Application Rules

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1. Competition is open to string, woodwind, and brass instrumentalists and vocalists in grades 9-12. Musicians who have won this competition in prior years are not eligible to re-apply.
2. The concert performance time of the winner's piece must be at least 8 minutes, but no more than 15 minutes.
3. Entrants may submit application materials for more than one selection, provided that each application packet is complete (including a separate entry fee, two-page application form, and recorded audition).
4. Before applying, entrants are strongly urged to email the title and composer of their piece to [solocontest@westsubsymphony.org](mailto:solocontest@westsubsymphony.org), for approval. The Society may disqualify an applicant based on the solo work selected.  
The available orchestral accompaniment will be: Strings, timpani, percussion, 2 flutes with one doubling on piccolo, 2 oboes with one doubling on English horn, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, and 1 tuba.
5. Entries must be postmarked by January 27, 2024. Entries accepted only by U.S. mail, to L. Bobis, 5634 Westview, Lisle, IL 60532. Only the first 25 entries will be accepted.
6. Entries must include the following items (incomplete entries are subject to disqualification):
  - Fully completed entry form. Note that the second page must be completed – attaching a resume in lieu of completing that page is unacceptable.
  - \$20 check payable to WSS
  - Audio of the entrant performing the entire solo work that he/she would perform in concert, should he/she win the competition. Accompaniment is preferred but not required. YouTube postings with video are acceptable (short URL preferred), or audio on an .mp3 file sent on a USB flash drive.
7. Entry fees are non-refundable.

## **Live Audition Rules for Finalists**

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1. Finalists must play or sing 8-minute excerpts from their solo pieces, from memory.
2. Finalists must play or sing with piano accompaniment and provide their own accompanist.
3. Finalists will be assigned an audition time between 1 pm and 5 pm on February 24. Times are not negotiable. Auditions take place in La Grange, Illinois.
4. Only the auditioning finalist, accompanist, and judges are allowed in the audition room.
5. Finalists must provide a copy of the full score – solo plus piano accompaniment – to the judges at the audition. The copy will be returned.
6. The winner must provide a portrait-style photo of themselves within one week after the live audition. The winner's photo will appear in the concert program and may be used in concert publicity.
  - Photos taken by professional photographers are preferred
  - Photo must be a high-resolution .jpg or .tif digital file (at least 300 dpi) emailed to [solocontest@westsubsymphony.org](mailto:solocontest@westsubsymphony.org).

## **Rehearsal and Performance Rules for Winner**

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1. Winner must attend 3 rehearsals with the orchestra: May 14 and May 17, 7:30-10:00 pm, in Hinsdale, and May 19, 2:00-2:45 pm, in Naperville. Exact times for the soloist to be present during these rehearsals will be communicated at least one week in advance of each rehearsal.
2. Winner must perform the piece they performed for the audition. No substitutions are allowed.
3. No photography or audio or video recording allowed at the rehearsals or concert, excepting only pre-authorized recordings for the winner's personal use – disclosure form must be submitted to the West Suburban Symphony Society President.
4. Up to 2 adult companions of the winner may be present during the rehearsals.
5. Winner will receive 2 free tickets to the May 19 concert.

## **General Rule**

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Any harassment of a judge by a competition entrant, an entrant's parents, or anyone associated with an entrant at any time during the competition will result in the entrant's immediate disqualification

### ***REMINDER: The following items must be included in your application***

- ✓ Both pages of the entry form, fully completed
- ✓ A \$20 check payable to WSS
- ✓ Your audition recording or a url to a YouTube recording

# West Suburban Symphony Solo Competition 2023-24 Entry Form

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Name			
Address			
City		Zip	
Email			⇐ Print legibly so we can contact you by email and text message!
Mobile phone			
High school		Grade	
Instrument / voice			
Composer of solo piece			
Title of solo piece			
Please indicate whether you are playing the entire piece or a specific portion of it (if a portion, state which portion)			
Concert performance time of your piece (must be 8 min -15 min)			
Name of your accompanist for your live audition			
Name and snail-mail address of the teacher who helped you prepare this piece			

## COMMITMENTS BY ENTRANT

I certify that I am the performer on the audition recording I have submitted for this competition. I have read and agree to abide by all Competition rules and agree to communicate them to my friends and family.

Printed name	
Signature	

## INFORMATION RELEASE BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN (or entrant if age 18 or older):

Should this entrant win the concerto competition, the West Suburban Symphony Society may use the information on this form, and the entrant's photograph, in print, broadcast, and web advertising and the concert program.

Printed name		Signature	
Relationship to entrant			

### **REMINDER: The following items must be included in your application**

- ✓ Both pages of the entry form, fully completed
- ✓ A \$20 check payable to WSS
- ✓ Your audition recording on a USB drive or, if on YouTube, include link here (short URL preferred):

Link:	
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My name (please print)	
Age at which I began studying my competition instrument	
Other instruments I perform (including voice)	

My most noteworthy musical performance, award, or honor:

My plans for special summer studies and/or college:

My career goals:

What I most enjoy about playing my instrument or singing:

Highlights of my non-musical school and community activities and honors: