Tri-County Concerts Youth Festival 2027 Guidelines

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Auditions: Saturday, April 24 - West Chester University, Swope Music Bldg.
Winners' Recital: Saturday, May 29 at **7 p.m. -** Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, Swope Music Bldg.

Teacher Pre-Registration: January 25 - February 22 / **Student Registration: March 1 - March 29**
Fees: soloist - $80; ensembles - $45 for each member

1. Eligibility:

- Only students who have been **pre-registered** by **Monday, February 22** by their music teachers may audition.
- Any student in grades 6 through 12 whose permanent residence is in Chester, Delaware, or Montgomery County or who attends, as a residential student, a school in those counties may audition. The music teacher or music school need not reside in those counties.
- All members of ensembles must meet residency requirements. All students in an ensemble must be at least in grade 6.
- Former winners, see rule 4

2. Categories: Junior Divisions–grades 6 through 8. Senior Divisions–grades 9 through 12.

- Soloists: Junior and Senior Divisions of Piano, Voice, Strings, Winds, and Musica Diversa (an extended category including other classical instruments like harp, classical guitar, percussion, etc.)
- Ensembles: Junior Ensemble Division and Senior Ensemble Division. If an ensemble includes both Junior and Senior students, it must compete as a Senior Ensemble.

Generally, first- and second-place prizes are given in each category, depending upon the number of participants and the level of performance. However, winners are not necessarily chosen in every category. All winners must meet a high standard of skill and artistry.

3. Audition and performance time limits:

Senior Division – **12** minutes (maximum)
Junior Division – **9** minutes (maximum)
Note: Shorter pieces are completely acceptable and equally competitive.

4. Restrictions:

A student in 2027 may choose to audition either as a soloist **or** as a member of an ensemble (but not both) and on one instrument (voice is understood as the vocalist's instrument).

- Ensembles must audition with the members specified on their registration form. Winning ensembles must perform with the same members who auditioned or they will forfeit their prize. No member substitutions are permitted.
- Former winners: The following rules apply to those who have competed in prior years.
  a) A **first-place winner** in the Junior or Senior Division may not re-enter the competition in the same division in a subsequent year except in the following situations: a **winning soloist** may re-enter playing a different instrument or as a member of an ensemble; and a **member of a winning ensemble** may re-enter as a member of a different ensemble playing a different instrument or as a soloist playing any instrument.
  b) A **second-place winner** in 2026 must wait until 2028 to compete in the same division and category playing the same instrument but may re-enter the competition in 2027 in a different category or playing a different instrument.
  c) Any winner in the Junior Division may compete in the Senior Division once the student has entered 9th grade.
- Anyone who did not win a first or second place prize in the Junior or Senior Division in a prior year may audition in the same division in 2027.

5. Repertoire:

The repertoire performed must be from the traditional classical repertoire or a work of an established 20th or 21st-century classical composer (i.e., not crossover, pop, jazz, or rock). Memorization is required for those auditioning in piano, harp, strings, and voice.

- Pianists must audition with a single selection from the solo literature (not concerto literature). The selection must be a work originally composed for piano. Transcriptions, arrangements, and cuts are not allowed.
- Instrumentalists must audition with a single selection; or one or more movements from a multi-movement work. Cuts of the accompaniment are acceptable.
- Instrumental ensembles must audition with a single selection from a duo, trio, quartet, etc.
- Vocalists must audition with two art songs or arias of contrasting style. Winners will perform only one of these pieces at the recital.

Repertoire Changes:

- Students must audition with the repertoire stated on their application form or they will be disqualified. Any changes in repertoire must be approved by the Directors at least one week before the audition.
- Students selected to perform in the winners' recital must perform the same work evaluated in the audition.

6. Rules regarding accompanists, teachers, and parents:

- If a student is auditioning with a piece composed for an instrument with accompaniment, he or she must audition with an accompanist.
- **Students must provide their own accompanists for auditions. Applications will be accepted only if the accompanist is listed** to avoid audition scheduling difficulties. If a student is selected to perform, the same pianist must accompany, unless another is authorized by the Directors.
- The audition accompanist may be anyone except the teacher. A list of accompanists will be made available on request.
- Only the auditioning student and accompanist (and, for ensembles, a page turner) are allowed in the audition room. A parent may accompany but cannot be page-turner.

7. Deadlines and Fees:

- **Teachers' pre-registration forms** must be submitted online by **Monday, February 22** (with student's name, address including county, email, instrument, and grade, but not repertoire).
- **Students' registration forms** must be completed online and registration fee paid by **Monday, March 29** (repertoire decision needed).
- **Fees: $80 for solo entrants, $45 per member for each member of an ensemble.** Registration is complete after the non-refundable application fee is paid online via PayPal (a PayPal account is not needed).

8. What to bring to the audition:

- All students must bring one clean (unmarked) copy of the music for the judges to consult during the audition. The original publisher's copy is preferable, but photocopies of public domain works are acceptable. The music will be returned at the conclusion of the audition.
- Cell phones or other recording devices are not permitted in the audition room.

9. Rules and questions:

- To ensure fairness, the rules are the same for everyone; requests for exceptions will be denied.
- Questions about rules, repertoire, etc. should be sent via email, but only after reading the guidelines carefully. Careful reading will often eliminate the need for a question.

10. Judges' decisions are final and indisputable. Those who violate this rule by contacting the judge will be permanently disqualified from entering all future Tri-County competitions.

11. Winners' recital: All winners must perform on the program and attend the awards ceremony at the end of the program to receive cash prizes and recognition with a certificate. The winners must perform the pieces exactly as they were approved for the audition, without additions or deletions. If a chosen winner cannot perform, the succeeding winners may be advanced. Honorable Mention winners, soloists and individual members of an ensemble, must be present to receive their certificates. The recital will be recorded on video.

12. Parental consent: Registration includes confirmation that the parent of each student competing as a soloist or as a member of an ensemble consents to the student's participation in all aspects of the Tri-County Concerts Youth Festival, and that each student and parent agrees to abide by the rules and procedures governing it. This includes, should the student win a prize, permission for the student's name, photo, and bio to be posted on Tri-County Concerts' website, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages and in newsletters and program books, and for the student's performance to be included in a video of the Winners' Recital to be posted on Tri-County Concerts' website.

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