



2027 Bruce P. Carlson Student Scholarship Competition STRINGS

Strings Divisions

Level I: grades 7-9

Level II: grades 10-12

Level III: college freshman through age 23

Level IV: age 24-28

Preliminaries: Online, Videos Due January 18, 2027

Finals: March 20 & 21, 2027 at Macalester College

Winners Recital - Musicians on the Rise:

Saturday, April 11, 1:00pm at Ordway Concert Hall

General Rules

Please read the entire rules thoroughly before filling in the application form. Be sure to keep these rules as a reference for important competition information.

Applications Open: October 5, 2026

Rules, application forms, and other materials will be available at schubert.org/competition

Application Deadline: Monday, January 18, 2027

- Completed applications must be received online no later than Monday, January 18, 2027. *Incomplete applications will not be accepted.*
- After you submit your application, you will receive an automated confirmation email from Acceptd. You may upload your competition videos either during the application process or at any time before the January 18 submission deadline. Before recording your videos, please ensure that your selected repertoire meets the competition's repertoire requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Gweni Caine at gcaine@schubert.org.

Video Submission Deadline: Sunday, January 18, 2027

Age: The age of contestants is determined as of September 1, 2026.

Eligibility Requirement: Applicants must be a resident of or enrolled in a learning institution within the 5-state region (MN, WI, SD, ND or IA).

- Schubert Club staff, Board or Board Committee members, and immediate family members of full-time or administrative staff** may not participate in the competition for cash prizes during their time of service and up to 6 months (to the competition event date) following their departure. They are, however, welcome to participate for judges' comments only.
- Immediate family members of Board members, Board Committee members, or part-time non-administrative staff** may compete for cash prizes. However, the Board member, Board Committee member, or staff member may not participate as a volunteer or paid staff for that year's competition.
- Previous winners:** No past 1st Prize winner in a division level may compete again in that same division level. Participants must wait until they qualify for the next age level in order to compete again.

Competitive Divisions & Prizes:

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes will be awarded in each Finals division level. Applicants agree to use their prize to further their musical education.

Strings Level I & II: Cash awards are \$2,000 for 1st Prize, \$1,500 for 2nd Prize, and \$500 for 3rd Prize

Strings Level III & IV: Cash awards are \$2,500 for 1st Prize, \$1,750 for 2nd Prize, and \$500 for 3rd Prize

Repertoire Changes: Repertoire changes will be accepted until **Monday, January 18, 2027**. If you wish to change your repertoire, please email Gweni Caine at gcaine@schubert.org

Limits on Enrollment: Only the first 30 applications received for each division level will be accepted.

- Some division levels may fill prior to the deadline.
- **Submitting an application by the deadline does not guarantee that space to participate will be available.**
- Complete applications received after a category is full will be placed on a waitlist.

Minimum applicants required: A minimum of ten applicants is required in a division level for a Preliminary competition to be held.

- If at least five but fewer than ten students apply in a division level, competitors will perform at Finals only and Schubert Club may elect to award only one, rather than two prizes.
- If fewer than five applications are received for a division level it will be canceled. The applicants will be notified.

Competing on two instruments: Applicants may perform on two instruments as long as they are not in the same instrument division (e.g. may perform on violin and piano but may not perform on both violin and cello). Please fill out an application for each division.

- **Different Pitched Instruments:** Brass and Woodwind applicants may perform on multiple pitched instruments within the same family during the same audition (e.g. on soprano and alto saxophone or piccolo and flute, though NOT saxophone and trombone).

Compliance: By submitting your application, you agree to submit an honest and complete application, to follow the procedures and rules for performance, and (if applicable) to secure a collaborative pianist prior to submitting your application.

- Performance repertoire must be chosen according to the classifications required by the Schubert Club rules.
- Competitors must perform in person for Finals to qualify for prizes.
- Recipients of prizes from Schubert Club agree to use their prize money to further their musical education.

Performance Requirements

Memorization: *Optional*

Use of printed music will not influence the judge's decision and memorization is not a component within the judge's scoring criteria.

Musical Scores: Sheet music does not generally need to be provided for judges during Preliminaries or Finals.

Occasionally, a judge might ask for sheet music of a lesser-known work. If this happens, a representative from Schubert Club will contact you.

Collaborative Pianists: Competitors must provide their own pianists.

- If both of your selections are **unaccompanied works** (e.g. Bach's *Partita for Solo Violin*), please indicate in your application notes that you will not have a collaborative pianist for your audition.

Performance Requirements:

- Literature: Prepare 2 contrasting selections from 2 different style periods
- **VIRTUAL Preliminary Round:**
 - **2 videos total: 1 video per repertoire piece**
 - Maximum **TOTAL** performance time (both videos): **15 minutes TOTAL**
 - Minimum length per video: 2 minutes (if complete piece is 2 minutes or longer)
 - Recommended Minimum total (both videos): 6 minutes
- **IN-PERSON Finals Round** (if you advance):
 - Maximum **TOTAL** performance time for the **finals round only:** **15 minutes TOTAL**
 - **Options for dividing the performance time** between the same two selections performed in the virtual Preliminary round:
 - 1) **You may determine the exact division.** In rehearsal prior to the competition, you determine the division of time between both works keeping in mind that you must demonstrate mastery of two different styles. This option allows you to include for example an important climax or a specific technical passage in one piece while still allowing time to present a solid portion of the second selection. In the competition, you perform what you have planned and the timer stops you only at the end of the allotted time.
 - 2) **You may ask the Schubert Club volunteer to stop you at the halfway point** at Finals (7.5 minutes), so that you may begin your second piece. For this timing option, the halfway point and end are the only allowable stop times.

Repertoire Requirements:

- **Two contrasting selections**
- Selections must **differ in tempo and technique**
- Selections must be from **two different time periods** as listed below.
 - **Pre-1827**
 - **19th Century/Romantic**
 - **Impressionistic & Early 20th Century**
 - **Mid 20th–21st Centuries**
- Competitors are not required to perform each piece starting at the beginning or at the start of a movement, allowing a student to feature a segment of the piece that showcases more technical or musical skill.
- Eliminate all repeats.
- If choosing a sonata, please include the opus number and key. Also indicate the specific movement(s) that you are performing by number and tempo (e.g. Coleridge-Taylor, Samuel: Violin Sonata in D minor, Op. 28, mvt. 3, "Allegro vivo con fuoco").