# 2020 Youth Solo Competition

The Wild Rivers Symphony announces its 2020 Youth Solo Competition with the following categories:

* Junior Division: Age 13 or younger at the time of the competition
* Senior Division: Age 14 through those who will graduate from high school in 2020
* College Division: Enrolled in at Humboldt State University, Southern Oregon University, College of the Redwoods, or Southwestern Oregon Community College.

The competition will be held on **Saturday, January 11, 2020,** at the Del Norte High School Music Room (1301 El Dorado Street, Crescent City, CA).

Judges may select **winners in each division**. From the division winners, the judges may select one or two **grand prize winners** to perform with the Wild Rivers Symphony at one of its 2020 spring concert.

Judges have the discretion to select no winners in any division, or no grand prize winner, if the performances are not deemed ready or appropriate for the spring concert series.

**Competition Rules**

- Contestants must reside Curry or Del Norte counties for the Youth and Senior categories or attend Humboldt State University, College of the Redwoods, Southern Oregon University, or Southwestern Oregon Community College for the college category.
- Contestants must compete in person. Video or Skype submissions will not be accepted. Exception: College entries may compete over Skype due to distance.
- Applicants must select a movement from an orchestral concerto or an aria from a requiem, oratorio or opera that could be performed with an orchestra.
- Applicants must notify the symphony office of their selected piece **prior to submitting the competition application**, to verify the appropriateness of the selection. Failure to do this may disqualify the contestant if it is not possible to find orchestra accompaniment for the piece or the piece is otherwise inappropriate. When you have identified a piece you'd like to play, please email the symphony office and make sure it will work for us, so

that you choose something that you can ultimately perform with the orchestra. You may email us at WildRiversSymphony@gmail.com

- Entry forms must be returned to the Wild Rivers Symphony office no later than **Friday, December 6, 2019 (postmarked).** Both physical and electronic submissions are accepted. Email submission to: WildRiversSymphony@gmail.com or mail to: Wild Rivers Symphony, P.O. Box 1274, Crescent City, CA 95531
- No substitutions, additions, or deletions in music selected will be permitted after the closing date of December 6, 2019.
- Length of the competition piece is not to exceed 15 minutes. Less time may be used, but not more.
- Music does not have to be memorized but is highly encouraged.
- Contestants should wear professional performance attire such as a suit, long dress, slacks and dress shirt or blouse.
- **Contestants must provide an accompanist**. We can provide you with names and phone numbers of accompanists. A guide to working with an accompanist is included in the application packet.
- Contestants must provide a copy of music for the accompanist and each of the three judges. Photocopies are okay.
- Applicants must be available to rehearse and perform with the orchestra at the 2020 concert of our choice.

**Rules Concerning Awards**

Performing in the Wild Rivers Symphony's Solo Competition is considered a tremendous honor; all performers will be recognized for their hard work and dedication. Certificates of recognition may be given at the judges' discretion. **One winner may be selected from each division. The grand prize winner may perform with the Wild Rivers Symphony.**

The Wild Rivers Symphony Board reserves the right to withhold awards from any participants not complying with the rules.

**About the Competition**

All contestants will be given the opportunity to rehearse on the performance stage on the afternoon of the day prior to the competition, Saturday, January 11, 2020. The Symphony will coordinate rehearsal times with the contestants after the application closing date of December 6th. Contestants may arrange additional stage time on their own.

The judges may delay announcing the winner(s) of the competition by 24 hours. Winner(s) will be posted to the Wild Rivers Symphony website and submitted to media outlets. Adjudicators will provide comments to the performers at the end of the competition.

Competitors are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the competition. If a winner needs transportation assistance to and from the concert venues in order to perform their piece with the Wild Rivers Symphony during the 2020 concert season, the Symphony may be able to help financially.

# 2020 Youth Solo Competition Application

Return this form by Friday, December 6, 2019, at 5:00 pm to:

Mail: Wild Rivers Symphony, P.O. Box 1274, Crescent City, CA 95531

Electronic: WildRiversSymphony@gmail.com

Name_____ Instrument _____

Address_____

City_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Birthdate_____ Age as of November 1st, 2019_____

Music Selection _____

Movement_____ Composer _____

Length in Minutes _____

Accompanist_____

Music Teacher_____ Teacher Phone_____

We have read and agree to the rules of this competition:

Entrant_____

Parent/Guardian_____

Date_____

**ADVICE TO SOLOISTS SEEKING AN ACCOMPANIST**

Here are five simple, common sense rules to find and retain an accompanist.

1. SCHEDULE EARLY -Line up your pianist AT LEAST one month ahead - and give them the score promptly. Pianists have to practice too and learning a part that is a reduction of a full orchestra score may take many hours. When there is a Music Festival or a Concerto Competition, a pianist may be working with several soloists and may not be able to take on another piece at the last minute.

2. CONSIDER IT A COLLABORATION - Ask the accompanist to check out the music early to allow time to find another pianist if the part is too demanding. Be specific about the tempi and provide your expected metronome settings. Don't pressure the pianist if they decides not to do it for either technical or artistic reasons.

3. BE PREPARED - Be prepared for at least 3 rehearsals prior to performance. Be flexible to the accompanist's schedule. Arrive and leave on time, bring music, music stand and a pencil. Know your part - remember, the accompanist is NOT your teacher.

4. DON'T ASSUME THERE IS NO FEE - Most accompanists are very generous to spend hours of their time helping young musicians, but don't abuse the privilege and don't expect them to work without compensation. Ask them what their fee is. Some accompanists charge by the rehearsal and others with a flat fee. If they DO offer to do it without payment, a nice card or flowers should be given after the performance as a gesture of personal thanks.

5. SHOW RESPECT - At performances, acknowledge your accompanist and invite them to join you in taking a bow. An accompanist is often under tremendous pressure to help you play at your best and public acknowledgment of their work and contribution to the musical process is simply good manners.