

2018 COMPETITION GUIDELINES FOR CLASSICAL ENSEMBLES

WHO MAY COMPETE

The competition is for pre-college musicians in non-conducted ensembles of three to eight players.

It is open to musicians 19 years of age or younger, who are not enrolled in a college degree program.

New this year: The competition is open to residents of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

An ensemble is not required to have a coach, but students are strongly encouraged to work with a teacher or other qualified musician. Note that each ensemble, regardless of whether or not they are coached, must have a designated adult chaperone at all competition events.

Any combination of the following instruments will be accepted:

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

Brass: trumpet, trombone, French horn, euphonium, tuba

Woodwinds: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone and related instruments

Piano: no more than one per ensemble

An individual musician may enter in two ensembles, but only if colleagues in the second ensemble are completely different from colleagues in the first ensemble.

Ensembles must retain the membership and repertoire submitted with their application throughout the competition.

ENTRY DEADLINE

The competition dates are Saturday, March 10, 2018 (Semifinals) and Sunday, March 18, 2018 (Finals). Application materials and competition fees must be received online at getacceptd.com/spco on or before midnight **Monday, February 5, 2018**. Late entries will not be accepted.

RULES FOR RE-ENTRY

A Level A ensemble that placed First in its category last year may not compete again, but individual members may participate in later competitions with no more than one original member in the new ensemble.

A Level A or Level B ensemble that did not place First in its category may enter the competition again with the same membership.

LEVELS

There are three levels—A, B and C. Ensembles can self-select the level at which they wish to participate:

Level A—(Video, Semifinal and Final rounds)

Level B—(Video and Semifinal rounds only) open to ensembles none of whose members are older than age 15.

Level C—(Video round only) For non-competitive ensembles

who would like professional critique of their performance.

REPERTOIRE GUIDELINES

- Selections should represent the standard classical repertoire from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods; the 20th century; and contemporary works.
- Transcriptions are allowed. Jazz, pop and rock genres are not allowed in the classical competition.
- **Level A** ensembles should prepare 12 to 15 minutes of playing time that includes two single movements from works of contrasting style and period. (Wind and brass ensembles may include more than two movements to fulfill the time requirement.) Ensembles whose repertoire is primarily from the 20th century must clearly represent more than one style.
- **Level B** ensembles should prepare one complete piece or movement, not to exceed seven minutes.
- **Level C** ensembles should prepare one complete piece or movement not to exceed seven minutes, for judging comments only.

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

SCORES

Two scores for each work must be presented to the judging panel at the competition's live rounds. If the repertoire being performed is NOT in the public domain, one of the two judges' copies MUST be an original or published score. Additional photocopies may be submitted for one-time use. Scores will be returned to the sign-in table at the end of the ensemble's performance(s).

ROUNDS

The Video Round

- Each Level A ensemble should submit video recordings of two contrasting pieces or movements with a total of 12-15 minutes of playing time. Works for woodwinds or brass may contain more than two movements to fulfill the time requirement. Each piece or movement should be recorded separately.
- Each Level B or Level C ensemble should submit a video recording of one complete piece or movement not to exceed seven minutes.
- 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 movement must be a complete take with no editing.
- After recording their video, ensembles should upload it to getacceptd.com/spco. Please submit your video following the instructions within the online application.
- Label the video in this manner: Name of ensemble, composer's last name, composition name and movement (if applicable). **Example:** The Stringalong Quartet; Beethoven Quartet Op. 18; 3rd movement.
- **Need help uploading your videos?** Contact support@getacceptd.com

The Semifinal Round

A maximum of 16 ensembles from levels A and B will be chosen to play in the live Semifinal round, which will take place on **Saturday, March 10, 2018**, in Sundin Hall, Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul, MN .

The judges will choose no fewer than four Level A ensembles to advance to the Finals/Winners Recital on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 2 p.m.

They will choose one Level B winner. The winning ensemble must be available to perform in the Finals/Winners Recital on Sunday, March 18.

Names of finalists will be announced following the auditions. They also will be posted on the competition website and Facebook page. The contact person for each ensemble will be notified by telephone of the judges' decisions.

The Semifinal Round is not open to the public, but families, teachers and coaches are welcome.

The Finals/Winners Recital

The Finals/Winners Recital will take place at 2 p.m. on **Sunday, March 18, 2018** in Sundin Hall, Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul, MN

Each group will have on-stage rehearsal time preceding the Winners Recital. Concert attire should be worn for this event.

A reception and awards ceremony will follow the Finals Recital. This event is free and open to the public.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Level A:

First prize: Strings - \$500 Winds - \$500

Second prize: Strings - \$300 Winds - \$300

Grand prize for outstanding wind OR string ensemble: an additional \$500, Whitacre medals, and a performance in the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in downtown St. Paul (time and date TBA)

Level B: \$150 and a performance in the Sunday, March 18, 2018 Finals recital.

Concert Vouchers: Vouchers to a Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra concert will be awarded to ensembles that do not win cash prizes in the competition.

ENTRY FEES

Level A—\$145 per ensemble

Level B—\$85 per ensemble

Level C—\$30 per ensemble (non-competitive)

The entry fee includes a \$30 charge by the "Acceptd" network that processes the applications. The non-refundable fee must be paid

online by credit card.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Needs-based scholarships are available. Please contact aconklin@comcast.net to request a form.

TIME LINE

Monday, January 15, 2018 — Start date for receiving videos and application materials

Monday, February 5, 2018 — Absolute deadline for receiving applications

Week of February 19, 2018 — Contacts for all entering level A and B ensembles will be notified of the video round screening committee's decision. Judges' comments will be mailed to them and to video-only participants shortly thereafter.

Saturday, March 10, 2018 — Semifinal Round—starting time 12:30 p.m. (*Time is subject to change as schedule is finalized.*)

Sunday, March 18, 2018 — Finals Recital—2:00 p.m.

Month following competition—Semifinal and Finals judges' comments will be mailed to contacts. Checks and certificates will be mailed to individual members of winning ensembles.

OTHER INFORMATION

Each ensemble must have a designated adult chaperone at all competition events. Information regarding parking, etc., will be made available on the competition website: www.spco-ycmc.org.

GUIDELINES FOR "CREATIVE" CATEGORY

1. 3-8 performers (as in the classical category)
2. The group must contain at least one orchestral instrument aside from piano. Guitar, saxophone, percussion and harp are considered here to be orchestral instruments.
3. Must be composed music. Arrangements and re-arrangements, improvisational sections of a composed work, or a blending of styles are encouraged but not required.
4. Genres such as traditional national music, fiddle music, jazz, etc. are acceptable.
5. The music (one or two selections) should total no more than 15 minutes in total performance length.
6. To be considered for the finals of this competition, instrumental and equipment set-up must take no more than five minutes to complete.
7. Application fee for this category is \$100 per ensemble.
8. Application videos will be judged online. Judges will critique each ensemble and choose one winner.
9. The winning ensemble will be awarded \$500 and will perform in the Finals recital on **Sunday, March 18 at 2 p.m.** in Sundin Hall, Hamline University in St. Paul.

CHECKLIST FOR ALL COMPETITION ENSEMBLES

To be submitted to getacceptd.com/spco by **Mon., February 5, 2018:**

- Student and repertoire information
- Video(s) of performance pieces
- Contact person for the group
- Coach (if applicable)
- Ensemble photo
- Ensemble bio
- Entry fee