

Covid Considerations: SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition is cancelled for 2020-2021; we expect the event to return in 2021-2022. Rules below for the past 2019-2020 year should help students and teachers anticipate and prepare. MNSOTA is committed to following national, state and local guidelines for health and safety during the Covid pandemic. Because changes to events may need to be made on short notice, the latest information will be available on our MNSOTA.org website and included in our weekly email reminders to members.

SPCO YOUTH CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR ANTICIPATED TO RESUME JANUARY–MARCH 2022

GUIDELINES BELOW ARE FROM 2019-2020 AND MAY BE ADJUSTED WHEN THE EVENT RETURNS IN 2021-2022

WHO MAY COMPETE

- Pre-college musicians 19 years of age or younger and not enrolled in a college degree program.
- Residents of Minnesota and neighboring states: Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin
- Non-conducted string and wind ensembles of 3-8 musicians playing classical chamber music repertoire
- Groups playing non-classical music in the CREATIVE division

Ensembles are not required to have a coach, but students are strongly encouraged to work with a teacher or other qualified adult musician.

Each ensemble, whether it is coached or not, must have a designated adult chaperone at the competition if they are chosen to compete in the Final round.

CATEGORIES

Classical – Senior Division

Students 19 and under, who compete for the 1st, 2nd or 3rd Prize

Classical – Junior Division

Students 15 and under, who compete for the Junior Division Prizes

Creative Division

Students of any age may compete for the Creative Prize. Competition in this division will be held only if at least three applications are received.

INSTRUMENTATION

Classical: Any combination of the following instruments:

Strings: violin, viola, cello, string bass, guitar, harp and piano
Winds: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, brass, piano

Creative: Any instrument listed above, plus instruments such as banjo, mandolin, harmonica, maracas and accordion, or those played in national traditional music.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Applications will open early January. All materials and the competition fee must be received online getacceptd.com/spco no later than midnight **mid-February deadline**. Late entries will not be accepted.

RULES FOR ENTRY

- An ensemble that placed first in its division in a previous year may not compete again in that division, but individual members may participate in that division again with no more than one original member in the new ensemble.
- An ensemble that did not place first in its division may enter the competition again with the same membership.
- An individual musician may perform in two ensembles, but only if colleagues in the second ensemble are completely different from colleagues in the first ensemble.
- Ensembles must retain, through the Final round, the members and repertoire submitted with their application.

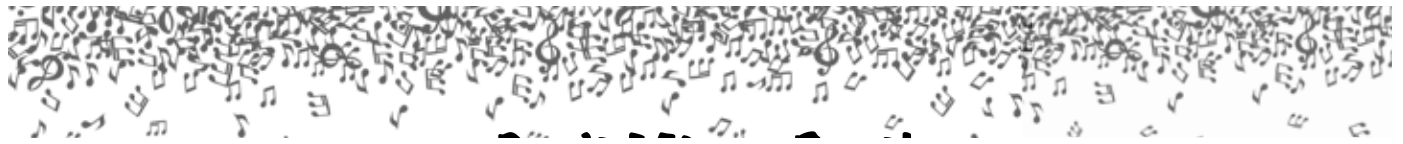
ENTRY FEE

The entry fee was \$50 per ensemble in 2019-2020. This non-refundable fee must be paid online by credit card.

REPERTOIRE GUIDELINES

Each ensemble should prepare one piece or movement of at least 5 minutes in length but not exceeding 10 minutes in total playing time.

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SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition *Continued from previous page*

Classical

Choose repertoire from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th century and contemporary works. No jazz, rock or pop.

Creative

Choose from musical genres such as national traditional, fiddle, jazz, etc. Unusual combinations of instruments, arrangements and re-arrangements, improvisational sections and a blending of styles is encouraged, but not required.

Please contact us well in advance of recording your program if you are unsure of your repertoire choices.

MUSICAL SCORES:

For the Finals in the Classical category, two scores for the work performed must be presented to the judging panel. One copy must be an original or published score. The second may be a photocopy, to be submitted for one-time use. Scores will be returned to participants at the end of the competition.

ROUNDS

There will be just two rounds—the Video round and the Final round.

The Video Round:

- Each ensemble should submit a video recording of one complete piece or movement of at least 5 minutes in length, but not exceeding 10 minutes playing time.
- 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 piece must be a complete take, with no editing.
- After recording their video(s), ensemble should upload it to getacceptd.com/spco, following the instructions within the online application.
- Label the video(s) in this manner: Ensemble name, composer last name, composition name and movement (if applicable). Example: *The Diamond Trio; Beethoven Piano Trio in D Major, Opus 70; I. Allegro vivace con brio.*

Need help uploading your videos? Contact support@getacceptd.com

The Final Round:

- The Video Round judges will select the ensembles that will compete in the Final Round on Sunday, March 15, 2020.
- Please choose attire that best represents your group.
- The Finals are free and open to the public.

- Performances will be followed by a reception and awards ceremony.

PRIZES AND AWARDS in 2019-2020:

Classical – Senior Division

- First Place: \$1,000 and Whitacre medal. An appearance in the Ordway Concert Hall (date TBD)
- Second Place: \$750
- Third Place: \$500

Classical – Junior Division

- First Place - \$500
- Second Place - \$300

Creative Division

- First Place - \$500

Judges' Discretionary Prize: \$300

Judges, if they so choose, may grant this prize to any finalist group that they feel deserves special recognition.

Audience Favorite:

Members of the audience will receive a ballot to indicate which ensemble was their favorite. This is a non-monetary award.

TIMELINE:

- Early January** — Start date for receiving online applications
- Mid-February** — Absolute deadline for receiving applications
- 3rd Week of February** — All entering ensembles will be notified as to whether or not they have been selected to perform in the Finals. Critiques from judges will be sent to each ensemble's coach or contact person.
- Mid-March** — Live Competition Finals and Awards.

CHECKLIST FOR ALL ENSEMBLES:

- Submit application to getacceptd.com/spco beginning early January but no later than mid-February deadline
- Student and Repertoire information
- Video of performance (please include name of ensemble with video)
- Contact person for ensemble
- Coach of ensemble (if applicable)
- Photo of ensemble
- Bio of ensemble
- Entry Fee

For more information, contact Ray Shows, MNSOTA Chamber Music Coordinator, ray@artaria.us

Event Cancellation/Refund Policy

Since events cannot be rescheduled, during normal times MNSOTA is committed to holding all events as planned and will cancel an event only in cases of a safety emergency (e.g. road conditions/weather), based on state advisories. During Covid times, an event may need to be cancelled at short notice based on health and safety guidelines. If an event is cancelled, participant fees paid to an outside organization such as GetAcctpd can not be refunded. However, at the discretion of the board, a partial refund of participant fees paid to MNSOTA may be considered after expenses have been paid.