

Mary West Solo Competition

CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR ANTICIPATED TO RESUME FALL 2021

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

Late October — Prelims and Call-backs

Early November — Winners Recital

Spring — Grand Prize Concerto Performance with the Bloomington (MN) Symphony

Covid Considerations: Mary West Solo Competition is cancelled for 2020; we expect the event to return in 2021. 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.

Eligibility

The Mary West Solo Competition is held annually each fall for students of the violin, viola, cello, bass, harp and classical guitar. Participants must be MNSOTA members or students of MNSOTA members. Participants must live or study in Minnesota.

Students are eligible to win the Givens Violins Grand Prize once and the CodaBow Prize once in their career. Students who

have won one of these prizes are welcome to compete for the other prize. Students are eligible to win the Division Prizes once in each age category. Previous prize winners are always welcome to participate for consideration for the Winners Recital.

Age and Requirements

Elementary Division (age 11 and under) and Intermediate Division (age 12–14)

students prepare one piece. Junior Division (age 15–18) and Senior Division (age 19–25) students prepare two pieces in contrasting styles by different composers. (*Determine your student's age as of January 1, current school year.* Students whose birthday is on January 1 should compete in the younger category.)

Students are required to play all works by memory, except Classical, Romantic or

Mary West 1909-2007

In her 50 years of violin teaching, Mary West set consistently high standards. She said she didn't expect all her students to become professional violinists; she just expected them to play like professionals. And they did. Mary West's students routinely won competitions at all levels. They entered prestigious music schools and universities and now have performing and teaching careers, from local freelancers to orchestras as far away as Australia. And those who have careers outside music still value the life skills Mary taught them — anything is possible if you practice, practice, practice.

Mary's genius was her knowledge of student personalities that allowed her to challenge without overwhelming, her strategies for helping students practice effectively, and her mastery at finding the technical problem that was preventing the student from playing better.



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After study at the Kansas City Conservatory and The Juilliard School, Mary had a successful performing and touring

career on the east coast in the 1930s. Mary and her sister Virginia performed for President Roosevelt in the White House in 1938. Mary was emeritus Professor of Violin at the University of Minnesota and taught at MacPhail Center for Music for over 30 years. She received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from the Schubert Club, the Special Service Award from MacPhail, and the Master Teacher Award from MN ASTA. In 2006, ASTA presented Mary with the Marvin J. Rabin Community Service Award for her "significant contribution to the community through teaching and leadership."

MNSOTA is proud to name our state Solo Competition in Mary West's honor.

Modern sonatas.

Students must prepare complete works or complete single movements; cuts are encouraged in piano tutti sections. Because the audition time may be shorter than the entire length of the piece(s), teachers should suggest appropriate cuts for the audition presentation. However, students are expected to prepare the entire piece(s), and the judges may ask for any portion outside of the cuts the teacher suggests. Elementary and Intermediate level students have a 6-minute audition slot and should prepare approximately 4 minutes of music. Junior and Senior level students have a 10-minute slot and should prepare approximately 8 minutes of music that covers both pieces.

Accompanists

Students must provide their own accompanist. To aid the flow of the competition we request that accompanists schedule themselves for no more than 3 hours of music. Please contact your chosen accompanist early — before they commit to other students.

Accompanists will not perform at call-backs unless the piece is a sonata. **Students should ensure that their accompanist will be available to perform with them at the Winners Recital, if they are selected.**

Application and Deadline

Register online at www.MNSOTA.org. Registration deadline is early October.

Information you will need to register:

- personal information including email
- teacher's ASTA membership number and expiration date; teacher's email
- complete program information for your pieces
- length of pieces
- accompanist's name, phone number and email
- your brief (100 word) bio to be used in the program if you are selected for the Winners Recital
- your credit-card payment (\$55 Senior and Junior; \$40 Intermediate and Elementary)

Incomplete applications will be returned without consideration; email is required.

Scheduling and Call-Backs

Please plan on being available for the entire afternoon of the competition (12:00–6:00 P.M.). Because judges must hear students in the same age level in a block, we can accommodate special scheduling requests only within that block.

The first round of judging will be in several rooms early in the afternoon. Please bring a copy of your music for the judges. (While there is no penalty for not having music for the judge, it is a common courtesy that we want to encourage.)

Students being considered for the Givens Violins Grand Prize or the CodaBow Prize will be asked to play a second time, at around 4:30–5:30 for the full panel of judges. These call-backs will be announced soon after the end of the first round, when the judges have made a thoughtful decision. Students who have prepared two pieces will be told which piece to play; students should be prepared to play the entire piece or a section of the judges' choosing for the finals.

We regret that it is a long day for students involved in call-backs. We appreciate good humor from parents and students to help make the day go smoothly for everyone. If you are assigned an early audition time, please plan on filling the time until call-backs are announced. Bring a book or your homework; go to nearby restaurants.

Winners Recital

Students chosen for the Winners Recital should represent all age groups competing. **Students can be invited to play on the Winners Recital even if they are not involved in call-backs.**

The call-backs involve only students being considered for the Givens Violins Grand Prize and the Coda Bow Prize. If there are a large number of call-backs, not all students will play on the Winners Recital.

Notification

All entrants will receive an email on the evening after the competition with the list of prize-winners and performers on the winners recital. *Please add competition coordinator Faith Farr faith@farrpublications.com to your address book to ensure that you receive*

all competition communications. All entrants will receive a letter a few days after the competition containing their comment sheets.

2019 Prizes

Prizes for the Mary West competition were:

- *\$250 cash prize from Claire Givens Violins, Inc.* and a *concerto performance with the Bloomington (MN) Symphony* — awarded to one over-all winner. (Two rehearsals with the Bloomington Symphony and performance are usually in the spring.) The Grand Prize Winner will perform their concerto on the Winners Recital.

- a *CodaBow Diamond SX™ model bow* (violin, viola, cello) (\$650 retail value) or *CodaBow Infinity* bass bow — awarded to the Performance Award Winner (violin, viola, cello or bass) demonstrating the most beautiful bow arm, custom inscribed with the winner's name

- *Division Prizes from Claire Givens Violins, Inc* — three gift certificates of \$75 each to be awarded to winners in different age groups

- *Performance Awards* — performance on the Winners Recital awarded to 8-10 contestants selected from all divisions

MNSOTA appreciates the long-time support of all our prize sponsors. We hope they will be able to resume their previous commitment when our competition returns in person next year.

For more information about the Mary West Solo Competition, contact Faith Farr, 4 Sunshine Lane, North Oaks, MN 55127, 651-484-0522, faith@farrpublications.com.

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 GetAccepted 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.