

**WAMSO YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION  
FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)**

**FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION:**

**Q. I play the saxophone. Will I be eligible to play in the competition?**

A. No. The rules state that contestants must play instruments that have permanent chairs in the Minnesota Orchestra: violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, percussion, harp and piano.

**Q. I live outside the competition area, but I studied in the summer with a teacher from Wisconsin. Can I enter the competition?**

A. No. You must be a CURRENT student or hold residency in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, or the province of Manitoba or Ontario, Canada.

**Q. My address is in Ontario. Does that qualify as "international" so that my application form must be sent in a week earlier?**

A. Yes. Residents of the two provinces in Canada have the earlier "Outside of USA" deadline.

**Q. May I pay my application fee by credit card?**

A. Yes, either by phone, online, or on the application form.

**Q. I don't have a teacher anymore because I completed my graduate degree last year. Whose name should I include in the application?**

A. You may include the name of a qualified professional, such as the director of an orchestra in which you are playing, or your most recent teacher – someone who can verify your qualifications to participate in the competition.

**Q. The application asks for an address to be used for contact. I will be in school until December and then at home after that. Which address should I use?**

A. You only need to include your legal residence and your mailing address at school. If you advance to the semifinals, you will receive another form asking for your December mailing address.

**Q. I don't have a social security number. Will that be okay?**

A. It should not be a problem, unless you win more than \$1,000.

**Q. May I play another concerto as one of my "solo" works?**

A. Yes.

**REPERTOIRE QUESTIONS:**

**Q. What do you mean by "standard repertoire"?**

A. Works that have been recorded on major labels, performed in major venues, or listed in the Schwann catalogue. New works are not accepted.

**Q. What is the rule about length of solo pieces?**

A. The combined playing time of your solo works should be a minimum of 20 minutes.

**Q. I would like to play one piece out of a work that contains a collection of pieces. Do I have to play the entire book?**

A. You may play a single piece if it is of sufficient length, musicality and virtuosity and is not connected thematically or musically to the other pieces.

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**Q. May I use a midi-recording accompaniment?**

A. A midi-recording accompaniment will only be allowed for percussion if there is no written accompaniment.

**Q. May I choose a solo piece that is from the same style period as my concerto?**

A. Yes. However, if you do choose a piece from the same style period as your concerto, you will need to play your other solo work in the Finals as the concerto and solo piece for the Finals should differ in style period and mood.

**Q. While choosing solos, may I include an etude as a solo?**

A. Yes, if it is of sufficient length and difficulty.

**Q. Do I need to bring multiple copies of my scores for the judges?**

A. No, but you should have one copy of each work available.

**PREPARING THE CD:**

**Q. Are accompaniments required for the CD, or may I record my pieces without accompaniment?**

A. If the piece is written with accompaniment, you must include the piano accompaniment. Exceptions are for piano concerto and unaccompanied works.

**Q. Do I have to record all three works on the CD?**

A. Yes, you must record the concerto in full plus sections from each of your two solo works.

**Q. Does my accompanist need to play the entire introduction and interludes, or is it okay to cut parts of those?**

A. It is recommended that your pianist make cuts in the introduction and the long tutti sections. For a pianist recording without an accompanist, a pause is sufficient.

**Q. Does the CD have to be sent by certified mail?**

A. Yes, and it is recommended that you send your CD with a return receipt requested so you can confirm that WAMSO received the CD. Please be aware of the CD deadline.

**Q. I already have made an existing CD with my piano concerto played with piano accompaniment. Can I submit that?**

A. No. The piano CD must contain no piano accompaniment. However, if you have a recent existing CD with orchestral accompaniment and it has not been edited, you may submit that, but you must have a separate affidavit form for each person or studio where you have made your recording, verifying that it has not been edited.

**Q. What do you mean by a "recent" existing CD?**

A. Recorded within the last two years.

**Q. Can I submit one cadenza on the CD and then play a different one in the actual competition?**

A. No.

**Q. My repertoire has been recorded on a mini-disk. May I submit it?**

A. No. Only CDs will be accepted.

**OTHER:**

**Q. My daughter is 12 years old. Is she eligible to compete in the WAMSO Young Artist Competition?**

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A. There is no minimum age, and the maximum age for contestants is 25. However, your daughter most likely will be competing with college and advanced degree candidates.