

6TH ANNUAL ECHO YACC

YOUNG ARTIST CONCERTO COMPETITION

2023-2024 SEASON



Announcing the Annual ECHOchestra Young Artist Concerto Competition for musically talented middle and high school students. The winner of the competition will be the featured performer of a work from the standard classical repertoire with the full orchestra as part of ECHO's spring concert, May 16, 2024.

Students are expected to perform repertoire at the level of Suzuki Book 9 (Mozart/Haydn) or beyond. Past winners have included students performing concertos by Mendelssohn, Lalo, Bruch, Sibelius etc. The expectation is that the contestant will perform a single movement of a major solo work as described above or a characteristic virtuoso showpiece such as Wieniawski "Polanaise" (violin and orchestra) for example.

- Memorization is strongly recommended although not required.
- No parents, friends, teachers or other spectators are permitted in the audition room.
- No written or verbal critiques will be provided.
- The decisions of the audition committee are final.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to Houston-area students currently enrolled in public or private school or participating in an accredited home schooling program.
 - Instrumentalists (string, brass, wind, percussion, or piano): 6th-12th grade
- Must be available on the competition date:

Sunday, February 18, 2024 – to be held at Lanier Middle School, 2600 Woodhead St., Houston, TX 77098

1:00pm

- **Mandatory Rehearsals:** Must be available to perform for the concert date of Thursday, May 16th, 2024, dress rehearsal, and it will be required to attend 2-3 mandatory rehearsals on Tuesday night 7:00pm-9:30pm immediately preceding concert date. The rehearsals will be scheduled with the conductor.
 - **Dress Rehearsal:** 7:00pm-9:30pm, St. John Vianney Catholic, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079
 - **Concert:** 7:30 pm-9:30pm, St. John Vianney Catholic, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079

Application Process

- **Submit a completed, official application form and Round 1 video audition by February 1, 2024**
 - Application is available from the website at www.ECHOOrchestra.org or by emailing ECHO at info@ECHOOrchestra.org
- Scan and Send completed form to info@ECHOOrchestra.org with a subject line reading “Young Artist Competition” or mail it to: ECHOOrchestra, 1127 Eldridge Pkwy, STE 300-347, Houston, TX 77077
- A non-refundable application fee of \$30.00 must be attached at the time that the application is submitted. We accept check, cash, or credit card
- Recorded videos should be submitted via email to info@ECHOOrchestra.org. These videos will be screened by the judges and then the applicants selected will be asked to do a live audition on Sunday, February 18th, 2024.

Competition Information

- **Round 1**
 - **Contestants will submit a recorded video of their concerto with live piano accompaniment to its entirety including cadenza if their piece calls for one.**
 - **Judges will screen the videos and select contestants they would like to move on to the next round of the audition on Sunday, February 18th.**
 - **The selected contestants will then proceed to Round 2**
- **Round 2**
 - **The final competition will be held on Sunday, February, 18, 2024, beginning at 1:00pm at Lanier Middle School, 2600 Woodhead St., Houston, TX 77098**
- Contestants will receive emailed confirmation of their application with performance time and directions to the contest site.
- Bring 3 collated copies of their solos bound in a 3 ring binder or similar with bars numbered.
- No jeans or sneakers.
- Repertoire is at the discretion of the applicant. However, professional level works by major composers is expected.
- Contestants will be asked to demonstrate ability and musicianship through the performance of a prepared selection lasting no longer than 12 minutes or one movement only.
 - **The contestant must have a piano accompanist provided at his or her own expense. A good quality weighted key electronic piano will be available for accompanists**
 - Memorization is optional
 - All audition pieces must have standard orchestral arrangements readily available

Selection

- The Competition Winner(s) will be selected on the basis of talent, musicianship, and overall ability, as demonstrated in the audition.

- The winning Contestant(s) will be invited to perform with ECHOrchestra on Thursday, May 16, 2024. The piece to be performed will be at the discretion of the music director.
- Competition Winner(s) will receive 2 free tickets to the concert, recognition in the program, and on all publicity materials.
- A cash prize of \$1,200 will be awarded to the 1st place winner of the competition. This prize is sponsored by Casa Argentina de Houston and the money may only be used for music lessons, music camp, or towards the purchase of a musical instrument or related musical accessory. The use of the money must be approved by Casa Argentina de Houston and ECHO will let the winner know how to report their purchase.
- The Chairman of the Competition Committee will be the final decider on all matters of the competition including eligibility and awards.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the competition, please email info@ECHOrchestra.org

To read more about ECHOrchestra please visit our website at www.ECHOrchestra.org