

Windham Regional Arts Council
2022 Young Artists Music Competition

Guidelines & Requirements

Dear Musicians & Parents: Please carefully read the following guidelines for our 36th Young Artists Music Competition, to be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 1:00 at the Burton Leavitt Theater, 779 Main Street, Willimantic, CT (Home of the Windham Theater Guild)

Eligibility: Competitors must be enrolled in grades 7 – 12 in public, private or home school.

Eligible Instruments: Piano, stringed instruments, wind instruments across all age groups

Vocalists must be enrolled in grade 10 – 12 in public, private or home school.

Ensemble members must all be enrolled in grades 10 – 12 in public, private or home school.

Panel of Judges: The Windham Regional Arts Council (WRAC) has secured a panel of judges for the event. Each judge has an advanced degree in various musical disciplines and have served in professional capacities as educators, performers, conductors and / or composers.

Prizes: Cash prizes will be awarded for most outstanding performances in vocal, piano, strings, and wind instruments. Entrants in the younger category (grades 7 – 9) are judged separately from the older (grades 10 -12) age group. Generally, prizes are awarded as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place for each instrument category, *unless* there are insufficient entries. In that case, certain instrument categories may be combined, at the discretion of the judges. The cash awards are distributed to the winners in the form of a check, payable to the name of the performer.

Grand Prize: The judges will determine which performer is most outstanding, regardless of age or instrument. This most outstanding performer will have the opportunity to perform as guest soloist with the Willimantic Orchestra in a future concert. An entrant may opt not to be considered for this distinction. This declination will have no bearing on consideration for other prizes.

Vocalists: The host organization (WRAC) is committed to protection of vocal health and recognizes that the vocal folds in this age group are in a developing phase. Therefore, singers who wish to present an aria from an opera or operetta, the selection must have been composed *prior* to the year 1850 (1849 or earlier). The piece need not be operatic, but must be art music or classical style.

Ensembles: Ensembles must have a minimum of two players and a maximum of five. Each ensemble performer must be enrolled in grades 10 – 12 in public, private or home school. The ensemble may have players of the same instrument, varying instruments, or any combination of such, including vocalists. We must have at least two ensemble entries by the registration deadline or the category will be eliminated and entry money will be refunded. An ensemble player or vocalist may also enter the competition as an individual performer.

Digital Accompaniment: Digital accompaniment (electronic speakers with a digital “track”) will no longer be accepted for the competition. A performer who plays or sings with no live piano accompaniment may do so.

Piano Accompaniment: The theater is equipped with two fully tuned pianos. One is a baby grand, the other is an upright. Generally, the competitor pianist will perform on the baby grand. The presence of two pianos allows for piano concertos, if desired.

Any performer who wishes to have piano accompaniment must secure their own accompanist. Compensation for the accompanist must be arranged between the performer’s family and the accompanist. Please keep the accompanist informed of the anticipated time of your performance. We urge each performer to rehearse with the selected accompanist well in advance of the competition date.

Attire: This competition is similar to many school-based events where there is an expectation of attire that is suitable for performance. An outfit should never detract from a musician’s beautiful playing or singing. For this reason, we ask that performers refrain from blue jeans, tee shirts, athletic style clothing, or polo shirts. For safety’s sake, please do not wear flip-flops or sandals. A button-down shirt is preferred (ties are optional). Dresses and blouses should have a conservative neckline / hemline. Leggings are acceptable if they are paired with a tunic or dress of mid-thigh length or longer. We appreciate each performer’s commitment to these recommendations, as they will encounter much firmer requirements for attire if their future includes All-State or collegiate level performance.

Schedule for the Competition:

Practice / Run-through:	9:30 – 12:30 in the theater. <i>Ten</i> minutes for individual performers; 15 minutes for ensembles.
Welcome / Introduction:	Begins at 1:00
Grade 7 – 9	Approximately 1:10 – 1:45
Brief Interlude	1:45 – 1:55
Grade 10 – 12	Approximately 1:55 – 3:15
Reception	3:15 – 3:45
Awards:	Approximately 4:00

Two professional photographers will be present for photographs that will be distributed digitally to participants post-event. We ask families and other guests refrain from taking photos / videos during the competition.

Registration & Entry Instructions:

Two entry forms are provided. The Individual Application is for solo performers. If you are entering the competition in two categories (e.g. Violin and Piano) two forms must be completed. The entry fee for one category is \$20.00. The entry fee for the second category is \$10.00. If a family has more than one entrant from the same household, the second entrant’s fee is \$15.00. The entrant’s and parent / guardian signatures are required on each entry form.

The Ensemble member application form is to be completed by *each* ensemble member. The entry fee is \$20.00 for each ensemble member. If the ensemble member is also competing in a solo category, the ensemble fee is \$10.00. Forms may be submitted separately, but sending the

entire ensemble's entry forms and payments together will help us as we prepare for the event. The entrant's and parent / guardian signatures are required on each entry form.

The deadline for all entries is November 7, 2022

Registration forms, with payment, should be mailed to:

WRAC Music Competition
P.O. Box 847
Willimantic, CT 06226

Please write "Music Competition" in the memo portion of the check.

WRAC organizers will communicate with families via email for general announcements. Communication for specific questions will be done via phone with parents / guardians. In the event of inclement weather on the competition date, the event may be postponed to a future date. The alternate date will be announced as it will depend on the availability of the theater.

Our email address is contactus@windhamrac.org

Competition Committee Chairman: Carol Twardowski-Heap (860) 933-8015

WRAC President: Catherine Shires (860) 617-4951

The Windham Regional Arts Council is a non-profit, all volunteer organization, founded in 1983. The Young Artists Music Competition is now in its 36th year. We remain dedicated to hosting this event each year to showcase the superb musical talent of each participant. Our mission for the event is to provide encouragement and build confidence among the performers. We believe that the opportunity to perform in a concert-like setting is a stepping-stone to the future for these young persons, whether they pursue a collegiate path or to perform in a community setting.

We look forward to working with you toward a great day of music & fellowship on December 4!



"Bringing Arts to the Community since 1983"

P.O. Box 847
Willimantic CT 06226