

# west suburban symphony

## 2019-20 YOUTH SOLO COMPETITION

The West Suburban Symphony Society is pleased to announce its 73rd annual solo competition for string, woodwind, brass, and vocal musicians in grades 9-12. On May 3, 2020, the winner will receive a \$500 cash prize and perform in a 3:30 pm concert at Hinsdale Central High School, Hinsdale, Illinois, with the West Suburban Symphony Orchestra.

Application materials are available at [www.westsubsymphony.org/solo-competition](http://www.westsubsymphony.org/solo-competition). To contact us, use [www.westsubsymphony.org/contact-us](http://www.westsubsymphony.org/contact-us) or send an email to [solocontest@westsubsymphony.org](mailto:solocontest@westsubsymphony.org).

### Key 2020 Dates

January 8	Application postmark deadline
January 19	Notification of finalists
February 22	Live auditions for finalists
April 28 and May 1 or 2 (May date TBD by Jan 1)	Winner rehearses with orchestra
May 3	Winner rehearses and performs with orchestra

### Contest Application Rules

1. Competition is open to string, woodwind, and brass instrumentalists and vocalists in grades 9-12. Musicians who have won this competition in prior years are not eligible to re-apply.
2. The concert performance time of the winner's piece must be at least 8 minutes, but no more than 15 minutes.
3. Entrants may submit application materials for more than one selection, provided that each application packet is complete (including a separate entry fee, two-page application form, and recorded audition).
4. Before applying, entrants are strongly urged to email the title and composer of their piece to [solocontest@westsubsymphony.org](mailto:solocontest@westsubsymphony.org), for approval. The Society may disqualify an applicant based on the solo work selected.  
The available orchestral accompaniment will be: strings, 3 flutes (including piccolo), 2 oboes (including English horn), 2 clarinets (including Eb and bass), 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, 1 tuba, and 1 set of timpani.
5. Entries must be postmarked by January 8, 2020. Entries accepted only by U.S. mail, to L. Bobis, 5634 Westview, Lisle, IL 60532. Only the first 25 entries will be accepted.
6. Entries must include the following items (incomplete entries are subject to disqualification):
  - Fully completed entry form. Note that second page must be completed – attaching a resume in lieu of completing that page is unacceptable.
  - \$20 check payable to WSS
  - Audio recording of entrant performing an 8-minute or longer excerpt from the solo work that he/she would perform in concert, should he/she win the competition. Accompaniment is preferred but not required. Format required: .mp3 file on a USB flash drive. Video recordings and YouTube postings are not accepted.
7. Entry fees are non-refundable.

## **Live Audition Rules for Finalists**

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1. Finalists must play or sing 8-minute excerpts from their solo pieces, from memory.
2. Finalists must play or sing with piano accompaniment and provide their own accompanist.
3. Finalists will be assigned an audition time between 1 pm and 5 pm on February 22. Times are not negotiable. Auditions take place in La Grange, Illinois.
4. Only the auditioning finalist, accompanist, and judges are allowed in the audition room.
5. Finalists must provide portrait-style photos of themselves before they will be allowed to audition on February 22. The winner's photo will appear in the concert program and may be used in concert publicity.
  - Photos taken by professional photographers are preferred
  - Photo must be a high-resolution .jpg or .tif digital file (at least 300 dpi) emailed to [solocontest@westsubsymphony.org](mailto:solocontest@westsubsymphony.org).
6. Finalists must provide a copy of the full score – solo plus piano accompaniment – to the judges at the audition. The copy will be returned.

## **Rehearsal and Performance Rules for Winner**

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1. Winner must attend 3 rehearsals with the orchestra, in the Hinsdale area: April 28, 7:30-10:00 pm; either May 1 (7:30-10:00 pm) or May 2 (9:30-noon); and May 3, 2:00-2:45 pm. The May date will be known by January 1, 2020. Exact times for the soloist to be present during these rehearsals will be set in March.
2. Winner must perform the piece they performed for the audition. No substitutions are allowed.
3. No photography or audio or video recording allowed at the rehearsals or concert, excepting only pre-authorized recordings for the winner's personal use – disclosure form must be submitted to the West Suburban Symphony Society President.
4. Up to 2 adult companions of the winner may be present during the rehearsals.
5. Winner will receive 2 free tickets to the May 3, 2020, concert.

## **General Rule**

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Any harassment of a judge by a competition entrant, an entrant's parents, or anyone associated with an entrant at any time during the competition will result in the entrant's immediate disqualification

### ***REMINDER: The following items must be included in your application***

- ✓ Both pages of the entry form, fully completed
- ✓ A \$20 check payable to WSS
- ✓ Your audition recording

# West Suburban Symphony Solo Competition 2019-20 Entry Form

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

High school \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument / voice \_\_\_\_\_

Composer of solo piece \_\_\_\_\_

Title of solo piece \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate whether, if you won the competition, you would play  
the entire piece or a specific portion of it (if a portion, state which portion) \_\_\_\_\_

Concert performance time of your musical selection (*must be 8 min -15 min*) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your accompanist for your live audition \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify the teacher who helped you  
prepare this piece: name and full mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMITMENTS BY ENTRANT

I certify that I am the performer on the audition recording I have submitted for this competition. I have read and agree to abide by all Competition rules and agree to communicate them to my friends and family.

*Printed name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

## INFORMATION RELEASE BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN (or entrant if age 18 or older):

Should this entrant win the concerto competition, the West Suburban Symphony Society may use the information on this form, and the entrant's photograph, in print, broadcast, and web advertising and the concert program.

*Printed name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

*Relationship  
to entrant* \_\_\_\_\_

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# West Suburban Symphony Solo Competition 2019-20 Entry Form

My name (please print)

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Age at which I began studying my  
competition instrument

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Other instruments I perform  
(including voice)

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My most noteworthy musical performance, award, or honor:

My plans for special summer studies and/or college:

My career goals:

What I most enjoy about playing my instrument or singing:

Highlights of my non-musical school and community activities and honors: