



## 2026 Ann & Charles Eisemann International Young Artist Competition for Strings presented by the Richardson Symphony Orchestra

The purpose of the competition is to recognize talented musicians and to provide early-career artists the opportunity to perform a string concerto with the Richardson Symphony Orchestra (RSO). The competition will be held on **Saturday, January 10, 2026** at First United Methodist Church Richardson (Richardson, TX, USA).

### AWARDS

The First Place recipient receives a cash award of \$5,000 and will perform with the Richardson Symphony Orchestra on March 7, 2026 (hotel accommodations for 2 nights included). Second Place recipient receives a cash award of \$2,000. Third Place recipient receives a card award of \$1,000.

### ELIGIBILITY

This competition is open to serious musicians, ages 14 through 27 as of January 10, 2026. The teacher or coach with whom the competitor is currently studying must sign the application. No former first place winner may enter the competition.

By entering the competition, the contestant guarantees that, if declared the first place winner they will be available for the required rehearsals on Friday, March 6, 2026 and Saturday, March 7, 2026 and for the performance Saturday, March 6, 2026.

### STANDARDS & ADJUDICATION

All competitors will be judged by the highest artistic standards of performance in all the areas of technical proficiency, musicianship, repertoire, and stage presence. Professionally qualified musicians will screen the preliminary online audition submission. The remainder of the competition is in-person and divided into two stages: semi-finals and finals. All competitors in these two rounds will perform before a panel of nationally recognized artists/master teachers and are open to the public. Three finalists will be selected and announced following the last semi-final performance of the day. The final round begins the same day shortly after the announcement.

At the discretion of the judges, no winner will be declared if the performance standards of the competition are not met. The decision of the judges are final.

### AUDITION SUBMISSIONS

Recorded concerto performances should be submitted via the online application or emailed as a YouTube link to Shanna Morin, Director of Audience Development, at shanna@richardsonsymphony.org. The audition performance must include all movements of the selected concerto or the entire major orchestrated work that will be performed for the competition. Please include your name and repertoire selection (composer and title.) Competitors will be notified by email by December 2, 2025 as to their acceptance into the semi-final round.

### FEES & APPLICATIONS

Application submission should include: completed online application, audition concerto link, a non-refundable entry fee of \$100 made payable to the "Richardson Symphony Orchestra." Application available, <https://bit.ly/2026YAC4Strings>.

If selected to participate in either the semi-final or final in-person round, an additional accompanist fee of \$175 made payable to "Richardson Symphony Orchestra" must be received by December 19, 2025.

### ACCOMPANISTS

The RSO provides professional accompanists for a fee of \$175. This fee includes a one-hour rehearsal the day before the semi-final round of the competition, plus accompaniment during the competition.

When selected into the semi-final round, each contestant will be required to mail an original piano score (no photocopies) for the accompanist to use during the rehearsal and performance.

If an accepted applicant withdraws from the competition for any reason after December 19, 2025, the accompanist's fee will be forfeited.

### COMPETITION REPERTOIRE

Competitors will perform, from memory, all movements of a standard string concerto or the complete significant orchestrated work written for strings.

for the 2026 competition, the following repertoire is excluded because these works were performed as part of the RSO's 2024-2025 season or will be performed in the 2025/2026 season:

- Sibelius: Violin Concerto
- Schumann: Cello Concerto in A minor
- Barber: Violin Concerto

No substitutions or changes are permitted once the application has been submitted. On the day of the competition, each competitor must provide an original published score for the judges. No photocopies of music will be accepted. Orchestrations for all competition music must be available in the United States. Music provided to the judges will be returned at the end of the competition.

### QUESTIONS?

For any questions related to this competition, please email Shanna Morin, Director of Audience Development: shanna@richardsonsymphony.org

**Submit application online:**  
<https://bit.ly/2026YAC4Strings>  
**Email concerto audition video to Shanna Morin:**  
[shanna@richardsonsymphony.org](mailto:shanna@richardsonsymphony.org)

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