



Rules of the 2026 OCO Youth Concerto Competition

Vision and Mandate

Oakville Chamber Orchestra strives to recognize excellence in musical aptitude and achievement among young classical musicians.

Details of the Competition

The first round of **Oakville Chamber Orchestra's Youth Concerto Competition 2026** will take place virtually. The deadline for the submission of application, payment and video is **Friday, March 27, 2026** at 11:59PM.

The top competitors will be chosen for the final round of competition on **Sunday, May 10, 2026**. All applicants will be contacted by April 10, 2026. The final round of the competition will take place from 2 to 6pm at Merriam School of Music, 2359 Bristol Circle, Oakville ON L6H 6P8. Once all the competitors have performed, the jury will deliberate and the winners will be announced.

Prizes

There will be two age categories with four prize winners. For age requirements see **Entrance Eligibility**.

Senior Category 1st Prize: \$500 plus a performance of a complete concerto or suite of arias

Senior Category 2nd Prize: \$300 plus a performance of one movement of a concerto or suite of arias

Junior Category 1st Prize: \$500 plus a performance of a complete concerto

Junior Category 2nd Prize: \$300 plus a performance of one movement of a concerto

The performances will be scheduled with the Oakville Chamber Orchestra during the Orchestra's 2026-7 season.

Rules

Applicants, please be sure you have read and understood all the rules stated below.

Application Deadline

Applications, payment and video must be submitted via the OCO website by **Friday, March 27, 2026 at 11:59PM**. After the judges have had a chance to review the videos, finalists for the in-person competition will be chosen. All competitors will be emailed with the results of the first round by April 10, 2026.

Entrance Eligibility

- You are currently a) a permanent or temporary resident of Canada or b) a Canadian citizen currently living outside of Canada or c) a foreign student currently residing in Canada.
- Instrumentalists for the Junior age category must have been born on or after January 1st, 2008;
- Instrumentalists for the Senior age category must have been born on or after January 1st, 2004;
- Vocalists compete in the Senior age category along with instrumentalists. They must have been born on or after January 1st, 2000;
- Previous OCO Youth Concerto Competition 1st prize winners are not permitted to re-apply in the same category for a period of one year.

Audition Music, Application Process and Competition Procedure

Applicants, please take note:

- Submit the completed online Application Form - see blue rectangle button (Complete the Application Form) at bottom of web page;
- Submit a YouTube video of yourself personally performing your concerto or suite of arias. Piano accompaniment is required. This includes piano concertos which must have second piano accompaniment. The accompanist must be provided by the participant;
- Applicants for the Junior age category must submit a YouTube video of one movement only of a concerto. Applicants for the Senior age category must submit a YouTube video of an entire concerto. Vocalists must prepare a suite of three arias of a duration of not less than **ten** minutes. We will not accept the use of an audio recording for any accompaniment. Concerto movements or arias may be recorded separately;
- For the first, video, round of the competition, participants are not required to memorise their music. For the second, in-person, round music must be **memorised**;
- The video submitted must have been recorded after March 31, 2025 and it may not be the same video submitted for the 2025 Oakville Chamber Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition;
- Any concerto or suite of arias is acceptable for the 1st and 2nd rounds. However, as OCO is a chamber orchestra, winners may be required to select different repertoire for their prize concert, due to orchestration and other concerns;
- The cash prize is awarded following your concert performance and is contingent upon this performance. Should you miss your scheduled rehearsal(s) you may be asked to not perform in the concert. In this case the cash prize will not be awarded;
- Pay a non-refundable Application Fee of C\$75 - see green rectangle button (Pay the Application Fee) at bottom of webpage;
- Have completely reviewed and fully understand the rules and regulations;



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CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA
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- Adhere to the rules stated above;
- Comply with eligibility criteria.

Consent

Some of the submitted recordings, at OCO's sole discretion, may also be featured on OCO's website and various social media platforms. In the event of winning a prize in the competition, contestants give their consent to having their performance with the Orchestra video-recorded and having the video, audio or photographs made publicly available through the OCO website and social media applications. These recordings and photographs will remain the property of the Orchestra.

The Jury

A panel of three professional musician judges, including the OCO's Music Director, will review the videos in the first round. A different jury of notable GTA musicians will form the jury together with OCO's Music Director, and select the finalists during the in-person second round.

The jury has the discretion not to award a prize or to award a joint prize.