

ECHOOrchestra

12th season

2026 YOUNG ARTIST CONCERTO COMPETITION

We're glad you're considering our annual ECHO Young Artist Concerto Competition for students in grades 7-12. The winner of the competition will be the featured performer with the full orchestra as part of ECHO's spring concert on Friday, May 15, 2026 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church. The winning performer also will receive a scholarship sponsored by Casa Argentina.

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 required
- All standard orchestral instruments and harp are eligible. Pianists are NOT eligible.
- Concerto should be chosen from the standard orchestral literature for which orchestral accompaniments are readily available. Anything non-standard, too long or too costly will not be considered. Please email if you have any questions.
- No parents, friends, teachers or other spectators are permitted in the audition room.
- Brief written critiques will be provided by the judges and emailed to students
- The decisions of the audition committee are final.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to Houston-area students in grades 7-12.

- Must be available on the competition date: **Sunday, February 8, 2026**
- **Mandatory Rehearsals:** Must be available for rehearsals and the performance. More specific rehearsal times will be determined by the conductor.
 - **Rehearsal:** **Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 7:00pm-9:30pm, Eagle's Trace**
 - **Rehearsal:** **Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 7:00pm-9:30pm, Eagle's Trace**
 - **Rehearsal:** **Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 7:00pm-9:30pm, Eagle's Trace**
 - **Concert:** **Friday, May 15, 2025, 7:30pm, St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079**

Application Process

- Submit a completed, official application form and Round 1 video audition by midnight Jan 25, 2026
- Recorded videos should be submitted via email to info@ECHOOrchestra.org. The file should contain your name and instrument. These videos will be screened by the judges and then the applicants selected will be asked to do a live audition on Sunday, February 8, 2026 between 1:00 and 4:00pm.

Competition Information

- Round 1 | Due: midnight, January 25, 2026
 - Contestants will submit a recorded video of their concerto with piano accompaniment (including cadenza if their piece calls for one.)
 - Submit via Google Drive or a YouTube link
 - Please include your name and instrument in the file name.
 - Include completed application form
 - Mail to info@echorchestra.org
 - Judges will screen the videos and select contestants they would like to move on to the next round of the audition
 - The selected contestants will then proceed to Round 2 and will be notified via email by February 4, 2026
- Round 2 | February 8, 2026

- o **The final competition will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026 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 copies of your music for the judges. The copies must be double sided and in a 3 ring binder.
- 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.
 - o **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**
 - o Memorization is required
 - o 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 Friday, May 15, 2026. The piece to be performed will be at the discretion of the music director.
- The 1st Prize winner will receive a cash prize sponsored by Casa Argentina de Houston. This prize may only be used for music related activities and items (i.e. lessons, music, instruments, etc). Casa Argentina de Houston will coordinate with the 1st prize winner after the competition.
- Competition Winner(s) will receive 2 free tickets to the concert, recognition in the program, and on all publicity materials.
- The Chairman of the Competition Committee will be the final decider on all matters of the competition including eligibility and awards.

Scholarship

The winning performer will receive a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by Casa Argentina of Houston. This award may be used towards music lessons, summer camp tuition, or instrument purchase.

Questions?

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

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