



70th Annual DuPage Symphony Orchestra | Young Artists Auditions | Sunday, February 1, 2026

Through its **annual Young Artists Auditions**, the DuPage Symphony encourages serious study and musical excellence among young musicians, and provides an important performance opportunity for the winner. The audition experience itself is designed to be both educational and rewarding for all participants. All entrants will be evaluated by experienced judges, and will receive written comments and suggestions based on their auditions.

Eligibility: The DSO Young Artists Auditions are open to high-school-age musicians who are currently enrolled in high school or homeschool **and** who permanently reside in DuPage, Kane, Kendall, or Will Counties; residents of Cook County who are within a 25-mile radius of central Naperville are also eligible. Residency and distance eligibility will be verified. Eligible performers include vocalists, pianists, and instrumentalists who play instruments ordinarily found in a symphony orchestra or featured in world music idioms, and for which there exists an orchestral accompaniment (playable by the DSO within its rehearsal schedule) readily available for rental, purchase, or loan. **Previous First Place and Second Place Winners of the DSO Young Artists Auditions are ineligible to enter the competition again.**

Audition Date and Location: The DSO's 2026 Young Artists Auditions will be held on **Sunday, February 1, 2026**, at the Wentz Fine Arts Center on the campus of North Central College, 171 E. Chicago Avenue, in downtown Naperville. Each entrant will be notified in advance by e-mail of his or her specific audition time.

Requirements: The following rules are in effect for the 2026 DuPage Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Auditions:

1. All entrants are **required** to perform from memory.
2. Three copies of the music, with the measures numbered, must be given to the judges at the time of the audition. One copy **must be an original.**
3. **Accompaniment is required.** All entrants must provide their own accompanist, to perform a piano reduction of the orchestral accompaniment to their chosen piece at the audition.
4. **Each entrant will be limited to 10 minutes of playing time.** If you need to make adjustments or cuts to fit into the allotted time, be sure to annotate all three copies of your printed music accordingly, in advance.
5. Pianists who audition as soloists must provide a second pianist to perform the orchestral accompaniment.
6. Only the entrant, accompanist, and a page-turner (if needed) will be allowed in the audition room with the judges. No observers are allowed in the audition room.

Repertoire: All audition selections are subject to approval by the DSO Music Director prior to the competition to ensure the feasibility of performance by the DuPage Symphony. If you have any doubts about your selection, please contact the DSO Office in advance of the January 20 application deadline. Orchestral parts for the accompaniment must be readily available for rental, purchase, or loan by the DuPage Symphony Orchestra.

Awards: The **First Place Winner** will receive a cash award of **\$500** and the opportunity to appear as soloist with the DuPage Symphony Orchestra in a work of 10-20 minutes in duration during the **concert on Sunday, March 21, 2026, at 7:30 pm.** If the First Place Winner cannot appear on that date, he or she will forfeit the prize as well as the first place designation, and the Second Place Winner will be awarded both instead. If the First Place winner does perform, the **Second Place Winner** will receive a cash award of **\$300.** **Both first and second place winners may be asked to perform at other DSO programs and events during subsequent seasons to promote future Young Artists Auditions.**

Application: The completed application form and a non-refundable entry fee of **\$40** must be sent to: DuPage Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Auditions, P.O. Box 844, Naperville, IL 60566-0844. All applications must be postmarked by **Friday, January 16, 2026.** The entry fee must be submitted by check made payable to the **DuPage Symphony Orchestra.** Scholarship assistance is available to those students for whom the application fee presents an obstacle.

If you have any questions about the 2026 DSO Young Artists Auditions or need scholarship assistance, please call the DSO Office at **(630) 778-1003** or send an email to: **info@dupagesymphony.org.** For general information about DuPage Symphony Orchestra events, please visit our website: **www.dupagesymphony.org.**

PLEASE NOTE: Only twenty-five audition slots are available; priority will be determined by postmark date. Applications received in excess of this number will be returned.



**DUPAGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – 2026 YOUNG ARTISTS AUDITIONS
APPLICATION FORM**

If I am selected as the First Place Winner, I am available to perform with the DSO on Saturday, March 21, 2026.

Please type or print legibly.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____
(number and street) (city) (state) (zip code)

Email Address _____ Phone () _____

High School _____ Grade _____ Age _____
(High-school age applicants must reside in DuPage, Kane, Kendall or Will counties.)

Instrument or Vocal Range _____ Years of Study _____

Current Private Instructor _____

Instructor's Mailing Address _____

Instructor's Email _____ Phone () _____

Musical Selection _____ Movement No. _____

Composer _____ Performance Duration _____

Publisher and Edition _____

February 1st scheduling constraints, if any _____

Accompanist Name and Phone _____

Other works prepared for performance with orchestra _____

Musical groups in which you perform _____

Please send completed application and the non-refundable **\$40** application fee (in the form of a check made payable to the **DuPage Symphony Orchestra**) to the following address:

**DuPage Symphony Orchestra, Young Artists Auditions,
P.O. Box 844, Naperville, IL 60566-0844**

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
Friday, January 16, 2026.**

Please keep a copy of your completed application form for your records. Additional blank application forms may be duplicated as needed.