2026 Guidelines
Nie Young Artist Scholarship Competition

The 2027 edition of the Nie Young Artist Scholarship Competition asks participants to perform two works for the audition. The first work is a required composition chosen from a short list of required works the Scholarship Committee has chosen. The second composition is a work of choice that contrasts with the required composition either in musical style, rhythm or compositional period. ***Neither composition needs to be memorized.***

The competition is open to pianists, *who will compete only with other pianists,* bowed-string players, *who will only compete with other bowed-string players*, and wind players, *who will compete only with other wind players*, in specified classifications. The classifications are: Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced and Pre-Collegiate. One qualifies for each category by the choice of the required composition within the specified category. In the Pre-Collegiate level, the requirement is to be able to perform a work by J.S. Bach (*one Prelude & Fugue chosen from the WTC, book one or two or the third movement of the 'Italian Concerto'*) and a work of her/his choice chosen from the standard repertoire of each instrument—preferably a work representative of an audition work for entrance to a college or a university.

There will be two prizes awarded for each of the categories: The Winner and the Honorable Mention. *Should the judges view that a standard of performance has not been reached then prizes may not be awarded within each category.* **Due to the structure of this competition being divided between Bowed-strings, winds, and Piano, it is possible for a participant to attempton multiple instruments. However, it is not allowed for the participant to enter into two categories within the same instrument.**

Important Dates:

The date of the competition will be on Saturday, January 23, 2027. Due to space constraints, there are different locations for each instrument group. Please see the registration form for your location. The Winners and Honorable Mention Concert will be February 7, 2027 at the First Congregational Church, 3:00 PM. **New this year**: Pre-Collegiate Winners will be required to perform their winning piece on at least one orchestra concert during the summer 2027 season. Concert dates to be announced.

The application and the $30 fee must be postmarked by Friday, January 9, 2027. This will give the Repertoire Committee time to review all submitted applications and provide needed response should there be any possible questions. The scheduling will be emailed by Friday, January 16 to inform the participant of the time of their audition.

Other information:

The participant is required to have two copies of the works performed for the judges. (One may offer copies. Please realize that the copies will be taken and disposed of to comply with copyright law.) The participant is also responsible for her/his accompanist. No solo performances are allowed in the audition should the music chosen require accompaniment.

Prizes awarded in each category:

Elementary:
Winner--$150.00
Honorable Mention--75.00

Intermediate:
Winner--$250.00
Honorable Mention--$125.00

Advanced:
Winner--$500.00
Honorable Mention--$250.00

Advanced Collegiate:
Winner--$700.00
Honorable Mention--$350.00

W.M. Cunningham Scholarship for
Excellence in Piano Performance

Appendix

In addition to performing at the February Scholarship Winners Concert, the winners of each pre-collegiate instrument group (piano, strings, and band instruments) are also expected to perform for at least one TCCO concert during the 2027 Summer Concert Season. This requirement should be taken into consideration upon registration for the competition. Depending on the repertoire selection, performance with full orchestral accompaniment may be possible for the scholarship winners. This will be at the discretion of the music director. If the scholarship winner chooses to be accompanied by the orchestra, attendance at select Monday night rehearsals, a dress rehearsal, and an individual rehearsal/meeting with the music director will be required. Alternatively, repertoire requiring piano accompaniment or no accompaniment are also acceptable for summer concert performances. All final repertoire decisions will be at the discretion of the music director

In the event that a student is feeling ill the day of the audition, please contact us. We understand that not everyone makes the same health decisions for their family, and, while we are not requiring proof of vaccination for anything, we ask that you please consider masking if you or anyone in your household is showing any signs of respiratory illness.

If you require special accommodation, please contact Shannon Schoville, scholarship director, as soon as possible to discuss possible solutions.