

Dear Music Educator!

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra (BVSO) and Friends Association of the Symphony Orchestra (FASO) are proud to present the 25th annual Brazos Valley Youth Concerto Competition! The competition is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 3 p.m. at First Methodist Church in Bryan, TX. The deadline for entries is Friday, September 25, 2026, at 5 pm.** There is no charge to enter the competition.

Tracy and Tamara Carter have provided long-term funding to establish The Tracy and Tamara Carter Youth Concerto Endowed Scholarship Fund. Thanks to their generosity, the scholarship amounts have been increased and now include 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards. **The winner of the competition will receive a \$1250 Scholarship to assist with education expenses at a university of their choosing. The 2nd place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, and the 3rd place will receive a \$250 scholarship.** The winners do not need to be a music major to qualify.

The competition is open to music students who reside in or attend a public, private, or homeschool program in the Brazos Valley. Past winners have been as young as 9 years old up through seniors in high school and competed on string, woodwind, brass, percussion, and piano.

Entrants must submit their entry form, audio file submission, and concerto piano part no later than **Friday, September 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** They can submit a performance of any movement from a concerto or suitable piece for solo instrument and orchestra from the standard orchestral repertoire. Unaccompanied repertoire is not acceptable. Please refer to the rule sheet for further information on how to identify their audio file.

Entries will be judged blindly by Dr. Marcelo Bussiki, music director and conductor of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, and a panel of BVSO musicians who will select three to five finalists to perform in person on **Sunday, November 8, 2026.**

While not required, students are strongly encouraged to have an accompanist on their entry. They will be required to perform in the finals with a professional pianist to be provided by FASO. Rehearsal times will be scheduled with each finalist prior to the event. A forty-five minute rehearsal will be scheduled with each finalist prior to the competition's final round.

The finals will be judged live by a separate panel of talented musicians. First through third place finalists will receive a plaque. In addition to the \$1250 scholarship, the first-place winner will be invited to perform with the BVSO at its annual Children's Concert which is scheduled to take place on Monday, January 25, 2027.

Please visit bvso.org/youth-concerto-competition/ for relevant forms, links for file submissions, and competition rules. Remember, entry is free, and the **entry form, audio file, and piano accompaniment sheet music must be submitted** via the correct links/forms by Friday, September 25, 2026, at 5 p.m. Also attached are the rules! Please read them over carefully as anyone who does not adhere to the rules will be disqualified!

Should you have any questions, please feel free to email me at pennyzent@outlook.com or call me at 979-268-1743.

Best wishes,

Penny Zent, Chair
Brazos Valley Youth Concerto Competition