Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra

Young Artist Competition

The Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra (CRCO) is pleased to announce the inaugural ***CRCO Young Artists Competition,*** beginning in the 2026-2027 concert season. Young artists from Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Delaware, Jones, Linn or Johnson County who participate in their school instrumental program if one is available, are encouraged to apply to be a featured soloist with our orchestra during the upcoming concert season. The audition process has two rounds: a **Preliminary Video-Only Round** and a **Final In-Person Round**.

2026-2027 CRCO Young Artist Competition <u>Important Dates:</u>

First round of video submissions due: Tuesday, December 1st, 2026

Finalists announced on or around: Tuesday, December 29th, 2026

Final round (in-person) performance: Sunday, February 7th, 2027

Competition winner announced on or around: Sunday, February 7th, 2027

Dress Rehearsal for performance: Wednesday, April 28th, 2027 @ 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Competition winner performance date: Sunday, May 2nd, 2027 @ 3:00 p.m.

<u>PRELIMINARY ROUND (Video Submission) due 12/1/2026</u>

Participants must submit a performance video; accompaniment is recommended but not required at this time. Memorization of the auditioning piece is encouraged but not required at this time. A committee composed of the artistic director and members of the Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra will review all submissions.

<u>FINAL ROUND (In-Person performance) on 2/7/2027</u>

Musicians invited to participate in the final round will audition in-person. The selection panel for the Final Round will consist of the artistic director and members from Cedar Rapids

Community Orchestra. Selected soloists will perform in concert with the ***Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra*** at their spring concert on **Sunday, May 2nd, 2027 @ 3:00 p.m.**

ELIGIBILITY

- Participation is open to any instrumental student in 7th - 12th grade and 18 years or younger during the upcoming concert season who attend school in Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Delaware, Jones, Linn or Johnson County and participate in their school instrumental program if one is available.
- Applicants are responsible for meeting the age and eligibility requirements and for accurately completing the required audition form.
- There is no competition entry fee.
- Applicants that are post-secondary or outside the age requirements will not be considered.
- The auditioning musician and their teacher select the piece for the audition, which must be the **same as the intended piece for the concert**.
- Performers will be judged on musicianship, technical ability, and stage presence.
- Musicians chosen to perform with the orchestra must be available for the dress rehearsal (**Wednesday, April 28th, 2027)** and concert (**Sunday, May 2nd, 2027**).
- The CRCO also regularly rehearses on Monday evenings (7:00-9:00 p.m.) at Kirkwood Community College. Winners will need to be available for select Monday evening rehearsals, which will be scheduled at a later time.
- Monday rehearsals will be individually scheduled at a later date. We ask that musicians please double check their availability for these days and dates before applying.
- Competition winners will perform in concert with the ***Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra***.
- Finalists will be announced on or around **Tuesday, December 29th, 2026.**

- Previous winners may not audition until at least the third season after the original performance.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Audition forms and videos for the preliminary round must be submitted no later than by midnight (central time) on **Tuesday, December 1st, 2026.**
- Applications received after the indicated deadline or received incomplete will not be accepted.
- Video performances will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of the artistic director and members of the Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra. The selection committee will select up to six (6) finalists to compete in the final in-person round at Kirkwood Community College on **Sunday, February 7th, 2027 @ 1:00 p.m.** Any Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra member who has a student participating in the competition will not be involved in the preliminary round selection process.
- Within the online form you'll be asked to copy and paste your video **link** (YouTube, google, Dropbox, etc.) or the folder you'd stored your video. **PLEASE be sure that the sharing settings for the link are set appropriately so our committee can view your video submission**. It's recommended that you double check that your video link is viewable by anyone (we recommend using a file type of MP4) and that all sound and video features are working properly. Failure to complete this correctly will constitute the disqualification of your application.
- Performance and audition comments from the committee will not be provided to applicants.
- Please use the link below to complete the online audition form and submit your video link.

CRCO 2027 Young Artist Competition Online Audition Registration Link:

https://forms.gle/U1cRWk1Tqm9ThTYa8

FINAL ROUND (In-Person performance)

- Musicians invited to participate in the final round will audition in-person on **Sunday, February 7th, 2027, starting at 1:00 p.m. @ Kirkwood Community College**. In the event of inclement weather, we will use video submissions from the preliminary round to determine competition winners.
- The selection panel for the Final Round will consist of the artistic director and members from Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra. Any Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra member who has a student participating in the competition will not be involved in the final round selection process.
- Audition times for the Final Round will be provided by early December.

PERFORMANCE AND PIECE REQUIREMENTS

- Preliminary round auditions are encouraged but not required to use an accompanist.
- Preliminary round auditions are encouraged but not required to be memorized.
- Final round auditions must be memorized.
- Final round auditions will **require** an accompanist during the audition.
- The auditioning musician and their teacher select the piece for the audition, which must be the **same as the intended piece for the concert**.
- **Total piece time must not exceed 15 minutes**. A recommended timing would be between 6-9 minutes in length.
- Concertos are limited to one movement. In the event the piece has an extended orchestral introduction prior to the entrance of the soloist, the introduction may be abbreviated.
- Musicians participating in the final round must provide music of the performance piece to the selection committee. Photocopies are acceptable providing that the musician owns an original copy.

- Performance and audition comments from the committee will not be provided to applicants.
- The number of soloists chosen will be determined by the selection committee for their upcoming season.
- The ***Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra*** reserves the right not to not select any soloist.

Please direct questions to: crcorchestra@gmail.com.