

SOUTH BAY BRANCH MTAC

2026 ARTISTS OF THE FUTURE COMPETITION RULES AND PROCEDURES

AUDITION DATE: Sunday, January 25, 2026 (tentative)

TIME: 1:00 PM (tentative)

LOCATION: Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, Cal State Long Beach, Room A301 (tentative)

WINNERS CONCERT DATE: May 31, 2026, Redondo Union High School Auditorium

NEW STARTING IN 2025: All winners performing with the Beach Cities Symphony will receive a monetary award generously donated by the Bob Peterson Young Musician Scholarship. Thank you cards to the Beach Cities Symphony and the Bob Peterson Young Musician Scholarship must be brought to the concert by the winners.

ONLINE ENROLLMENT DEADLINE:

Monday, December 1, 2025 at 10:00 PM www.mtacsouthbay.org.

ENROLLMENT FEE WILL BE PAID BY PARENT ONLINE:

\$120 per entry for solo concertos

\$200 per entry for double concertos

\$300 per entry for triple concertos

All fees are non-refundable.

ALL ENROLLMENT MUST INCLUDE:

1. Vocalists- Proof of age document (downloaded and attached)
2. Instrumentalists and pianists in high school High School ID (downloaded and attached)

All Applicants will be notified of the approximate audition time two weeks prior to the competition.

INELIGIBLE REPERTOIRE for 2026 Competition:

L. V. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major Opus 15, I. Allegro con brio

F. Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11, I. Andante maestoso

S. Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18, I. Moderato

H. Wieniawski: Concerto No. 2 in D minor Op. 22, I. Allegro moderato

S. Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 (any movement)

M. Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1 (any movement)

PERFORMANCE WITH ORCHESTRA

Within a total performance time of sixty minutes, a maximum of four winners will be selected to perform with the Beach Cities Symphony on their **season finale concert (usually in May)**. **Past concerts have been held at the Marsee Auditorium (El Camino College), but this year the venue has yet to be decided.** A first and second alternate will also be selected. The alternates may step in as a soloist with the Beach Cities Symphony if for any reason any of the winners are unable to perform.

All winners **MUST** attend rehearsals as scheduled by the Music Director of Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra. Students who fail to comply will not perform with the Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra. All winners must comply with the Beach Cities Symphony's schedule, program order and rules or they will not perform with the orchestra.

New, starting in 2025: All winners performing with the Beach Cities Symphony will receive a monetary award generously donated by the Bob Peterson Young Musician Scholarship. As such, in appreciation for the opportunity to perform and being the recipient of the cash prize, all winners will be required to give thank you cards to both the Beach Cities Symphony and the Bob Peterson Young Musician Scholarship Fund at the winners concert.

APPLICANTS

Auditions are open to students of active and provisional members of the MTAC South Bay Branch. (Contributory members are not eligible.) Teachers must have been members in good standing of the South Bay Branch for at least the preceding 12-month period prior to January 1st of the audition year.

A student may only enter once per year as a soloist on the same instrument. A student may enter more than once in the same year if performing on a different instrument. If teachers have any questions with this rule please contact Way-Chung Wong.

There is no limit to the number of students a teacher may enter. All performance winners (solo, and/or any combination) must wait until the third year after their performance to re-apply. For example: A winner who applied in 2022 for the 2023 Artists of the Future Competition (performance in 2023) is not eligible to apply until 2025 for the 2026 Artists of the Future Competition (performance in 2026). The exception to this rule is that a winner may audition the next year on a different instrument. The three year rule would then also apply for that student and instrument in the following years. If teachers have any questions with this rule please contact Way-Chung Wong.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

There is no minimum age. For pianists and instrumentalists: maximum age for the audition is 19 years old as of December 31st. For vocalists: maximum age is 21 years as of the year of the competition.

Proof of age documents: Vocalists must submit a copy of their proof of age document. Pianists and instrumentalists in high school must submit a copy of their high school I.D. Pianists and instrumentalists in middle school and earlier need not supply proof of age documents.

All entrants must be non-professional and non-music majors (proof of non-music major status required).

REPERTOIRE

Instrumentalists and pianists: one movement of a concerto or other work originally composed for solo instrument(s) and orchestra. Cadenzas must be performed if the work has a cadenza. No transcriptions or abridged editions will be allowed.

Vocalists: two standard opera, oratorio or comparable arias for voice and orchestra in original key and language.

As per an agreement with the Beach Cities Symphony, there can be no winners with duplicate pieces.

Repertoire performed in the Artists of the Future concert with the Beach Cities Symphony one year may not be repeated in the following year.

Repertoire that another Beach Cities Symphony soloist is performing during the 2025-2026 season may not be used. Please see the BCS website (www.beachcitysymphony.org) for their most up to date season schedule.

Conductor's score and orchestra parts must be readily obtainable.

Expenses for reservation/rental of score and parts will be shared by student and teacher. Non-standard works most likely incur additional score and musician fees, which must also be paid by student and teacher. In such a case, please check with the Chair of Artists of the Future to ascertain instrument requirement and costs prior to submitting application.

COMPETITION RULES

Contestants must perform with piano accompaniment and provide their own accompanist but may not be accompanied by their own teacher.

At the competition, a parent or accompanying adult must be with underage entrants at ALL times.

Contestants, parents and teachers are not to identify themselves nor communicate with the judges before and during the competition. To do so will disqualify the entrant. In addition, the teacher must not provide any assistance to his/her students while in view of the judges. This includes turning pages for the piano accompanist.

Any form of video and audio recording during the auditions is strictly prohibited and may result in the disqualification of the student.

If a student absolutely cannot afford an accompanist, the matter can be brought to the attention of the MTAC South Bay Branch Executive Board for review, and if appropriate, a competent accompanist will be provided from our membership.

Contestants must perform from memory. Prior to the time of their audition, contestants must present at the check-in desk the original score of their audition piece that will be given to the judges by the room monitor. **Failure to turn in the original score will result in disqualification from the competition. Students or accompanists presenting photocopied music (except to facilitate a page turn) will be disqualified from the competition.**

Student must audition with the music as written but may delete tutti sections to help shorten the audition time. All teachers must be available to work on competition day - no exceptions. Please accept this duty pleasantly.

The competition is open to the public with no admission charge.

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL. However, the decision of the judges may not override the Rules of the competition.