

Betsy L. Kent Concerto Competition

Competition to be held Saturday, November 14th, 2026, 1:30-6:00 PM

A **high school** and **college** winner will be selected. Both will be awarded a \$400 honorarium and **will perform with the Newark Symphony Orchestra in March or May 2027**. *In case of joint winners within an age category, the honorarium will be split between the winners.*

Participant Criteria

1. Age as of December 31, 2026:
 - High school student age 13-18
 - College student (instrumentalist) under the age of 25
 - College student (vocalist) under the age of 29
2. Contestants must sing or perform on a string, wind, or percussion instrument (not piano).
3. Contestants must be permanent residents or full-time students in the state of Delaware, Chester and Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania, or Cecil County in Maryland. Applicants not meeting residence requirements will be considered if they study with a Delaware resident.
4. Contestants must supply at least two piano scores for use by the judges.
5. Contest winners must be able to commute to required rehearsals at the Independence School and Charter High School in Newark, Delaware.

Repertoire Selection

- College contestants must be prepared to perform a complete work for solo instrument and orchestra (single movement works are acceptable)
- High school contestants are encouraged to audition with a full work but a single movement of a concerto will also be considered.
- Vocalists must be prepared to perform a program of at least 15 minutes of operatic arias from standard repertoire.
- Memorization is not required, but is preferred.
- **If the rental cost of the orchestral parts is more than \$400, the soloist is responsible for the remaining balance.**

Registration Information Below

Application form on next page and also available at <https://newarksymphony.org/concerto-competitions/>

A **non-refundable fee of \$40** must accompany each application. Make checks payable to: *Newark Symphony Orchestra* or payable online at <https://newarksymphony.org/concerto-competitions/>

Applications due Monday, October 26th, 2026

Auditions on Saturday, November 14th, 2026, 1:30-6:00 PM at:

The Music School of Delaware

4101 Washington Street
Wilmington, DE 19802

For additional information, check www.newarksymphonyorchestra.org or contact Thomas R. Rocek rocek@udel.edu.

[Application form on reverse]

Betsy L. Kent Concerto Competition Application Form

Personal Information

Name:	Date of Birth:
Permanent Address (including county):	Local Address (If different than permanent address):
Phone:	Parent/ Guardian Name (If under 18):
Email:	

Audition Information

Instrument:	Years Studied:
Current School: City: State:	Division (please check one): High School [<input type="checkbox"/>] College [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Grade or Year:	

Work to be Performed:	Key:
Composer:	Duration: minutes
Catalog Number (Opus, K. etc.):	
Accompanist Name:	Email:

Applications due Monday, October 26th, 2026

Auditions on Saturday, November 14th, 2026, 1:30-6:00 PM at The Music School of Delaware (see front for details)

Private Teacher Information (required)

Name:	
Phone:	Email:
Full Street Address:	Signature:

Terms of Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that, 1) this application will not be considered until both the completed application and non-refundable fee of \$40 is received via check or online at newarksymphonyorchestra.org . A confirmation receipt will be sent. 2) I understand that I am responsible to reimburse NSO for any music rental cost of my concerto exceeding \$400. 3) I am fully compliant with all rules of this competition as stated in the information flyer (see reverse side of this form). 4) If selected, I agree to submit a short biographic statement and photograph by November 29th, 2026. 5) I understand that in the event of interrupted season programming, my concerto will not be rescheduled with the orchestra, although I will still receive the honorarium.	
Signature:	Date:

To submit application Please pay fee (see front) & email application to BusMgr@newarksymphony.org, or mail application & fee (payable to Newark Symphony Orchestra) to NSO Concerto Competition, PO Box 7775, Newark, DE 19714-7775. **All applications must be received by Monday, October 26th, 2026.** For more information or questions, please contact Thomas R. Rocek at rocek@udel.edu.