



Composition Competition

2024 RULES & RESTRICTIONS

Applicants must submit application, full score, link to recording of piece or MIDI file, and \$25 application fee by 11:59pm (CDT) October 30, 2023.

The NPO is an organization whose mission is to provide amateur musicians opportunities to perform at a high-quality level. The composition competition is meant to include those who do not make their living as composers or arrangers. The NPO trusts that applicants will respect the spirit of this endeavor and use their own judgment accordingly.

The music must be written for full NPO orchestration (see below) and be no longer than 8 minutes in length.

The current NPO orchestra roster includes:

- full strings
- up to 3 flutes (one on piccolo)
- 2 oboes (+ opt English Horn)
- 2 clarinets (+ opt Bass Clarinet)
- 2 bassoons
- 4 horns
- 3 trumpets
- 3 trombones
- tuba
- standard orchestral percussion (no marimba or vibraphone)
- optional harp (1 player)
- optional piano (1 player)

*****PLEASE NOTE: Percussion must be limited to no more than four (4) parts: Timpani + 3 percussion. Harp and piano parts are optional, but must be limited to no more than one (1) part each. Submissions with woodwind and/or brass instrumentation expanded beyond this list will be considered on a case-by-case basis. While submissions can include brief solo sections for one or more instruments, concertos are not eligible for submission. We strongly recommend you contact competitions@nashvillephilharmonic.org prior to submitting your piece if you have questions regarding instrumentation.***

Due to various circumstances, the Grand Prize winner may not be performed with the other competition winners, although the Music Director may decide to program the work on a future concert, pending availability and other concerns. This year, the competition winners concert cycle includes performances on March 3 and March 5, 2024. The NPO reserves the right to name a Grand Prize but not have the piece performed if the piece is not appropriate for the NPO or at the discretion of the Music Director and the Competition Judges.

The Grand Prize winner will be expected to provide complete parts and full score for the NPO by December 15, 2023. Score and parts must be formatted to US Letter or A4 size – parts may be sent in electronic PDF format, but must be easily printed on one of these two sizes.

The submission must have been composed within the last two years. The submission cannot have been performed professionally.

Any applicant under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian approval on the application form.

Only complete applications will be reviewed. This includes the form submitted on our website, the PDF of your full score, the link/file of the audio recording, and application fee.

Multiple applications by the same individual must include separate score, sound file, and application fee for each piece submitted.

Previous Composition winners are not eligible.

Due to grant requirements, all applicants must reside in the State of Tennessee or be a student at an educational institution in Tennessee.

The winner will be announced in early December.

Application fees will not be refunded for incomplete entries or entries that fail to meet the Full Rules and Restrictions. Any other refund request will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. While already low, if the cost of the application fee is a financial burden for you, please contact director@nashvillephilharmonic.org by October 15, and before submitting the application form.