

2025-26 Concerto Competition

Colorado State University Orchestras

Application Information, Rules, and Procedures

Rachel Waddell, Director of Orchestras
Ethan Urtz, Competition Coordinator

The University Concerto Competition is an annual event designed to give outstanding undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to perform as a soloist with one of the University Orchestras. The 2025-2026 competition will feature the CSU Orchestras. There are no limitations on instrumentation of the accompanying ensemble, within reason. **The Final Round of the competition will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, in the Organ Recital Hall.** A winner chosen by the judges will be selected to perform on the May 7 concert with the Symphony Orchestra. While there will likely be only one winner, there's a possibility of other winners who would perform on concerts 2 and 3 below. Any auditionee **must** be available for any of the dates listed below. Please note: there is **no** guarantee of a winner (or winners).

Soloist with Symphony Orchestra: Concert #1

Dress Rehearsal on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Concert on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Other rehearsal(s) during Symphony Orchestra on T/TH from 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Soloist with Symphony Orchestra: Concert #2

Dress Rehearsal TBA (likely the first week of February)

Concert on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Other rehearsal(s) during Symphony Orchestra on T/TH from 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Soloist with Concert Orchestra: Concert #3

Dress Rehearsal on Monday, February 23, 2026, from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Concert on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Other rehearsal(s) during Concert Orchestra on M/W from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Rules and Procedures

1. Eligibility
 - a. The competition is open to any Colorado State University student currently studying with an applied teacher in the music department. Any string player participating in the competition must also be enrolled in a CSU Orchestra for at least one semester of the 2025-2026 school year. If you have extenuating circumstances, please connect with Dr. Waddell at rachel.waddell@colostate.edu.
 - b. Previous 1st place winners may not compete in consecutive years. This includes any winners who wish to compete the following year in a small ensemble such as a duo or vice versa.
2. Applications must include the following:
 - a. A completed application form (please print or type), including instrumentation. **Incomplete applications will be returned.**
 - b. Signature approval of the applicant's applied music teacher.
3. Repertoire Requirements
 - a. Must be a standard work for symphony orchestra for which the orchestral accompaniment is readily available and not exorbitantly expensive.
 - b. There are no limitations on instrumentation of the accompanying ensemble, within reason.
 - c. Students may audition with an entire concerto but are not guaranteed to perform the entire concerto on the final concert with the orchestra. Students must indicate their intent to perform the entire concerto on their application form, and if selected will be required to perform their entire concerto if they make it into the final round. Students are encouraged to showcase their best work and should remember that less is sometimes more.

- d. If you have any questions regarding repertoire, please contact Dr. Waddell directly at rachel.waddell@colostate.edu.
4. Each contestant **MUST** provide their own accompanist for the Preliminary and Final Rounds of the competition.
 5. *Preliminary rounds will be run through the department's five instrumental areas: Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Strings, and Piano. Each area may put forward all qualified candidates. The preliminary rounds must be completed by **Saturday, November 1 at 5:00 p.m.** so that a schedule can be organized for the final round two weeks later.*
 6. The final round will be held **Saturday, November 15, 2025** in the Organ Recital Hall of the UCA. Please reserve the time between **8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.** for the audition. A list of competitors and a schedule of specific audition times will be emailed to accompanists, competitors, and applied faculty. *Please make cuts to long accompaniment introductions and extended tutti sections within concertos.*
 7. Completed applications must be received by Ethan Urtz, competition chair, by 5:00 pm on **Friday, October 10, 2025**. ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW FOR APPROPRIATENESS OF ORCHESTRAL DIFFICULTY AND COMPATIBILITY.

Applications may be downloaded from the department's website at the following link under the heading "Concerto Competition Application"

<https://music.colostate.edu/concerto-competition/>