

CSU Orchestras 2025-2026 Concerto Competition

Concerto Information, Rules, and Procedures

Dr. Waddell, Director of Orchestras

Dr. Bellamy-Lanz, Competition Coordinator

Important Dates & Deadlines

- **Application Deadline:** October 9, 2026
- **Preliminary Rounds:** Scheduled within your applied area before October 31, 2026
- **Final Round:** Saturday, November 14, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Organ Recital Hall)

General Information

The University Concerto Competition offers outstanding undergraduate and graduate music students the opportunity to perform as soloists with the CSU Orchestras.

Competition winners selected by the adjudicators will perform with the CSU Symphony Orchestra on their May 2027 program. Judges may consider more than one winner to perform on that date, at their discretion and that of Dr. Waddell. All applicants must be fully available for all performance dates and dress rehearsals:

	Performance Date	Dress Rehearsal	Regular Rehearsals
Symphony Orchestra	May 6, 2027 @ 7:30PM Griffin Hall	May 5, 2027 @ 7-10 PM Griffin Hall	T/Th 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM Griffin Hall

Preliminary Rounds

Preliminary rounds are managed by the department's five instrumental areas: **Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Strings, and Piano**. Due to limited space/restricted schedules, each area may advance **up to four** qualified candidates to the final round. If area applied faculty deem appropriate, they may put forward one or two alternates. All preliminary auditions must be completed by **Saturday, October 31, at 8:00 PM** to allow time to organize the final round schedule.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to any Colorado State University student currently enrolled in applied lessons within the Department of Music.

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- **String players** must be enrolled in a CSU Orchestra for at least one semester during the 2026–2027 academic year. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances must be requested directly via email to Dr. Waddell (rachel.waddell@colostate.edu).
- **Previous winners** are ineligible to compete in consecutive years. This restriction applies whether competing as a soloist or as part of a small ensemble (e.g., duo).

Rules

1. Application Requirements

- Complete the online application form at: <https://music.colostate.edu/concerto-competition/>
- Upload the completed *Concerto Details and Permission Form* (PDF) signed by the student, applied faculty member, and collaborative pianist. All requested repertoire research must be complete and included at the time of submission.
- **Note:** Incomplete applications will not be processed.

2. Repertoire Requirements

- Must be a standard work for symphony orchestra with readily available, reasonably priced orchestral accompaniment.
- There are no strict limitations on the instrumentation of the accompanying ensemble, within reason.
- Students may audition with a complete concerto, though performance of the full work on the final concert is not guaranteed. Applicants wishing to perform a complete concerto must state this intention on their application form and prepare to perform it in full if advanced to the final round. Applicants are encouraged to showcase their best work, keeping in mind that quality often outweighs quantity.