Meridian Symphony Orchestra
Young Artist Competition Guidelines
Application Procedure: Young Artist Competition
Saturday January 23, 2027

- **Application Form**:
  - Print and mail with $25 application fee.
  - Forms are available from our website: www.meridiansymphony.org

- **Application Deadline: Friday January 15th, 2027**
  - Competition is limited to 40 participants.
  - If we receive more than 40 applicants, earlier applications will receive priority.
  - A standby list will be used in case of cancellations.

- **Eligibility**:
  - Solo instrumental students through Grade 12.
  - Participants must reside in Southwestern Idaho.

- **Divisions**:
  - **Junior Division**: Up to 8th Grade as of January 23, 2027
    - **Junior Piano**
    - **Junior Strings**
    - **Junior Instrumental**
  - **Senior Division**: Grades 9 through 12 as of January 23, 2027
    - **Senior Piano**
    - **Senior Strings**
    - **Senior Instrumental**
  - For young artists that have advanced to a grade in school above their current age, please contact the Symphony to discuss appropriate competition placement.

- **Repertoire:**
  - Performers should choose music from classical concert literature such as one movement from a concerto or similar piece to be accompanied by orchestra.
  - Semi-classical and popular music are not appropriate.
  - Selected pieces do **not** have to be memorized, however judges will take this into consideration.
  - Students' teachers should verify that the music is available for orchestra and realistic in terms of the present makeup of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra.
  - Student must be accompanied by a pianist.

- **Competition and Judging Procedure:**
  - The competition will be held on January 23, 2027, between 8am and 3pm at the Dunkley Music Recital Hall. Warm-up and performance times to be announced.

- Each young artist will have a maximum of 10 minutes to perform. Movements must be abridged to fit the time limit for the competition only; full length is allowed for concert performance.

- Students will be required to supply three copies of the music to the judges at the competition. **If still under copyright, an original copy must be present at the time of the competition**.

- Please do **not** put music in binders. Music will be returned in manila envelopes and binders do not fit!

- Judges will look for expressive ability, empathy of musical style, faithfulness to specific indications of the work (tempo, dynamics, phrasing), memorization, and technical security. Written feedback will be provided to each contestant.

- Winners may be selected in each of the six divisions, but the judges are not obligated to choose a winner in any division. In addition, judges may or may not select a participant in each division to be awarded an Honorable Mention.

- Division winners will be awarded $200 and Honorable Mention will be awarded $100.

- A Junior Soloist Award recipient and a Senior Soloist Award may be selected to perform with the Meridian Symphony Orchestra, either for our March 6th or May 1st concert. The competition judges will select these recipients. There is no additional monetary award for the recipients who have been selected as soloists.

- Soloist Award recipients from the 2026 competition are invited to compete and are eligible to be a division winner or honorable mention but are not eligible for the Soloist Award of the 2027 competition. In addition, students will be eligible to receive the Soloist Award once in the Junior Division and once in the Senior Division only.

- If chosen to perform with the Meridian Symphony Orchestra, soloists are expected to give high priority to rehearsals. If any soloist does not maintain his or her performance quality up to the time of the concert, the MSO Artistic Director may remove him or her from the concert program. Rehearsals are scheduled for Monday evenings at South Junior High School.

- By applying to participate in the Meridian Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition, the performer, along with the students' parents/guardians authorize the use of their photo image and if applicable, the video and audio recording of the student's performance for marketing and promotional purposes.

- For questions related to the Young Artist Competition, please email **Louise van der Eijk**, MSO harpist and Young Artist Competition organizer directly at **drvandereijk@gmail.com**, subject heading: YAC.