

The Delano Chamber Orchestra
Young Artist's Solo Competition Rules
2025-26

1. The competition, rehearsals, and performance will take place at The District Church, 304 S. Seneca, Wichita, KS, on Saturday, January 10, 2026, between 2:00 and 5:00pm. Contestants will be provided with specific audition times in advance.
2. Applicants are limited to high school seniors graduating in fall 2025 or spring 2026 or their homeschool equivalents. Works composed for multiple soloists are not allowed.
3. Applications will be accepted from musicians in three categories:
 - A. Strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass, and harp);
 - B. Orchestral Woodwinds (piccolo, flute, oboe, English horn, clarinet, and bassoon);
 - C. Orchestral Brass (French horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and tuba).
4. Judges are not obligated to pick a winner or more than one winner. If a winner/s is/are chosen, scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$800 for first place and \$400 for second place.
5. Applicants must submit two (2) letters of recommendation, one each from:
 - A. Their private music teacher;
 - B. Their high school director, youth orchestra conductor, or prominent community musician.
6. The letters of recommendation and application should be sent to Dr. Wesley DeSpain, 2151 S. Oliver, Wichita, KS 67218 OR electronically (PDF) to wesleydespain@gmail.com. Materials must be received by Saturday, December 20, 2025.
7. Selection of winners will be based on the following audition criteria:
 - A. Strings: Two ascending and descending major or minor scales of three octaves, played in any style. Harpists are exempt from this requirement.
 - B. Woodwinds and brass: 1) One ascending and descending major or minor scale, played in any style over the full range of the instrument; 2) A chromatic scale, played in any style, over the full range of the instrument.
 - C. A performance of the solo work with piano accompaniment. It is not necessary to provide copies of the solo work to the selection committee. Prior to submitting the application, the applicant or private teacher must contact Dr. Wesley DeSpain, Delano Chamber Orchestra Music Director and Conductor, to gain approval for the work to be performed. Email: wesleydespain@gmail.com; Cell: 316-734-3511.
 - D. The orchestral parts for the work to be performed must be available for purchase. The existence of a piano accompaniment that can be purchased does not necessarily mean that the corresponding orchestral parts are available for purchase. Please check. *The DCO does not perform music for hire (rentals) due to budgetary and licensing concerns.*
8. Competition winners will perform with the Delano Chamber Orchestra on Sunday, April 19, 2026. The concert will begin at 3:00pm.
9. Attendance at four (4) rehearsals prior to the concert is required: Tuesdays March 31, April 7, 14, and 18 all from 7:00-9:00pm. Dr. DeSpain will provide soloists with specific rehearsal call times in advance.
10. Soloists are encouraged but not required to perform from memory. Winners must perform the work listed on their application and heard at the audition. Multiple movements may be performed if approved by Dr. DeSpain in advance.

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Young Artist's Solo Competition Application
2025-26

Due December 20, 2025

Submit this application and two letters of recommendation (see rules page) to:

Dr. Wesley DeSpain
2151 S. Oliver
Wichita, KS 67218

OR

wesleydespain@gmail.com

Applicant Information

Name _____ Instrument _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

School _____ Graduation date _____

Title and composer of work to be performed (include movement if applicable).

Accompanist name: _____

Publisher (list editor if applicable): _____

*****Be certain to arrange for piano accompaniment on the day of the audition and to gain approval for your work from Dr. DeSpain (see rules page).***

Parent(s) Information

Name(s) _____

Phone(s) _____

Email(s) _____

Private Teacher Information

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____