Reno Chamber Orchestra

2027 Vahe Khochayan Young Artist Concerto Competition

The Reno Chamber Orchestra (RCO) Young Artist Concerto Competition aims to celebrate the diverse musical talents of pre-college youth in Nevada and highlight the indispensable work that Nevada-based music teachers do in promoting arts education for today's youth. We invite music students from across Nevada to participate and perform a concerto of their choice.

The RCO will choose two winners, one from the Junior Division and one from the Senior Division, to perform with the Reno Chamber Orchestra as part of RCO's season finale concert on Sunday, May 23, 2027, in Nightingale Concert Hall at the University of Nevada, Reno. Cash prizes are awarded to the winners and second-place finishers in each division.

Eligibility

1. Entrants must be 18 years old or younger on the day of the final round of the competition and must not have completed high school.
2. Entrants must be a resident of Nevada or take lessons from a Nevada-based teacher.
3. Past first place winners are ineligible for a period of one season following their Vahe Khochayan Young Artist Concerto Competition win. We welcome past finalists and runners up to enter the competition again immediately. First place winners may enter after taking one season off.

Divisions

1. Junior Division (Ages 13 and under): The winner will receive $1500 and be invited to perform with the Reno Chamber Orchestra. The second-place finisher will receive $750.
2. Senior Division (Ages 14–18): The winner will receive $2000 and be invited to perform with the Reno Chamber Orchestra. The second-place finisher will receive $750.

Audition Process

1. Preliminary Round: Entrants shall submit an application via the RCO website that includes the link to a YouTube video (see VIDEO REQUIREMENTS) of themselves performing their selected concerto. **Applications are due by the end of the day on Friday, February 5, 2027**.
    a. Each entrant's video will be reviewed and scored independently by a panel of judges consisting of RCO musicians and staff. Up to 12 entrants will advance to the finals, based on the composite scores of the judges.
    b. Applicants will be notified of the preliminary round results on or before Friday, February 19, 2027.

2. Final Round: Finalists will be invited to audition live in Reno on Saturday, March 13, 2027.
    a. Finalists must perform the same concerto as submitted in the preliminary round and may not include any additional movement(s).
    b. Finalists must provide their own accompanist. Finalists who need help securing an accompanist in Reno may contact kaman@renochamberorchestra.org for a list of local accompanists.

Performance at "Dreaming Big" Concert

1. The winners from each division will be invited to perform their selected concerto with the Reno Chamber Orchestra during the RCO's concert, "Dreaming Big", on Sunday, May 23, 2027.
2. Performers must be available for two rehearsals with the orchestra on Saturday, May 22, 2027, in advance of the concert.

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Live Performance Requirements

1. Entrants may audition on any of the standard orchestral instruments as well as piano, harp, saxophone, baritone horn, euphonium, and percussion.
2. Repertoire must consist of one or more complete movements of a work written for a solo instrument and chamber orchestra.
    a. In addition to the solo instrument, the work may be written for up to 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, timpani, harp, keyboard, and strings. Exceptions to this instrumentation are made on a case-by-case basis and MUST be approved in advance by the Artistic Director. Inquiries of this nature can be directed to kaman@renochamberorchestra.org.
    b. A list of pre-approved concertos is available on the Reno Chamber Orchestra website.
    c. Total orchestral performance time without cuts, must not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
    d. Entrants must perform their selected concerto from memory.

Video Requirements

1. PLEASE check eligibility of your repertoire in advance of applying. If you have questions, email kaman@renochamberorchestra.org
2. The entrant's instrument, hands, and face should be fully visible in the video.
3. The entrant MUST perform the concerto from memory.
4. Entrants must be accompanied by piano or live orchestra.
5. The video must be made in one continuous recording from one fixed camera and must not be edited or enhanced in any fashion.
6. Entrants must upload their video with "Unlisted" visibility.
7. Video titles should follow the format "Composer; Title; Movement(s)" to protect anonymity.
8. Videos should not include information which reveals the name of the applicant.