

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA
2020 – 2021 STUDENT SOLOISTS COMPETITION
GUIDELINES

NOTE:

The Concerto Competition this year will be virtual due to the public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Competitors will be assessed based on their performance video recordings. Applicants are strongly advised to consult their professors and the Director of Orchestra about their repertoire choices, as repertoires that require a large orchestra will be more difficult to perform under the current circumstances.

ELIGIBILITY:

Undergraduate and graduate music majors who are enrolled in applied lessons in the School of Music are eligible to enter. Previous winners of the Student Soloists Competition are not eligible to audition again in the same category (undergraduate/graduate). A graduate student who was a previous winner in the undergraduate category may audition in the graduate category.

CATEGORIES AND SCHEDULE:

There are two categories, one for undergraduate students and one for graduate students. The final auditions for both categories will be held on the same day. The schedule will be as follows:

- **Final auditions: Videos must be submitted by Friday, December 4th 5:00 PM**
 - Performance videos can be uploaded on the internet (YouTube, Google Drive, etc.).
 - Links to the video must be sent to Director of Orchestra at jkim73@kent.edu
- **Preliminary auditions: Results must be available by Monday, 30th of November 11:00 PM**
 - Faculty members of each performance division will hold preliminary rounds to best suite the number and availability of their competing students. Preliminary auditions may be in person or virtual, pending decisions of faculty members in each division.
- **Performance: Spring of 2021, date TBD**
- **Graduate Division:** For multi movement works, such as concertos, the entire work should be performed for both the audition and the performance. The conductor may make some exceptions. Substantial individual opera or oratorio arias may be submitted.
- **Undergraduate Division:** Single movements from multi movement works, such as concertos, may be submitted. If an undergraduate student chooses to perform a complete multi---movement work, all movements must be presented at both the preliminary auditions and the final auditions.

MEMORIZATION:

The applied teacher and the division faculty determine memorization requirement. It is based upon standard practice for the specific instrument or voice and upon repertoire considerations.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Following appropriate consultation with the applied instructor, the student should submit an application form (found at the end of this document) to the applied instructor. *The form should not be submitted to the director of the KSU Orchestra.* Forms should be submitted a minimum of one week in advance of the preliminary auditions, or earlier if required by the performance division faculty.

PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS:

The members of the faculty of each performance division are responsible for the preliminary auditions. Each division may recommend a maximum of 3 students for the final auditions of the Undergraduate Competition and a maximum of 3 students for the final auditions of the Graduate Competition. If one of the recipients is a performance involving two or more soloists from different performance divisions, each division may recommend an additional performance for the final auditions (a maximum of 4 rather than the usual 3). Scheduling of preliminary auditions is to be determined by the faculty in each division. Preliminary auditions should be completed by 11:00 PM on the Monday prior to the date of the final auditions. The Application Forms for the finalists should be submitted to the director of the Orchestra as soon after the preliminary auditions as possible. The director of the Orchestra should also be notified about the winners of the preliminary auditions by email.

For purposes of the Student Soloist Competition, performance divisions are as follows:

Woodwinds
Brass
Percussion/Harp/Guitar
Strings
Piano/Keyboard
Voice

ACCOMPANISTS:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, accompaniments are recommended but not required.

MULTIPLE SOLOISTS:

Works involving more than one soloist may be submitted. All soloists may be in the same division (i.e., either undergraduate students or graduate students), or there can be a combination of undergraduates and graduate students, in which case the ensemble must participate in the graduate competition. All students should be regarded as participants in the competition, rather than one or more students providing a supporting performance for the actual participant. The judges for the final auditions will be advised to evaluate the overall performance presented. Performances involving supporting performances by soloists who are not students are not allowed. If the students are from different performance divisions (e.g., one from woodwinds and one from strings), **all divisions** must agree, as a result of the preliminary auditions, that these students should move forward to the final auditions as one of the three finalists in both performance divisions. In such cases the students should perform separate auditions for all representative divisional preliminary competitions, unless faculty from all divisions can hear a single audition.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A student may not perform more than once in the preliminary auditions. For example, a student may not participate with two separate pieces, even if those pieces involve performances on different instruments. Also, a student may not participate with both a solo performance and a performance involving two or more soloists.

When planning repertoire for the Student Soloist Competition, it is essential that the size and the performance level of the Orchestra be kept in mind. Pieces requiring a very large orchestra, or which are very difficult for the orchestra to perform may not be viable.

Each student must provide the conductor with a full orchestral score and have the Repertoire Approval section of the application form signed by the conductor prior to the Preliminary

Auditions. If a full score is not available, the conductor should be contacted well in advance of the Preliminary Auditions and provided with as much information as possible regarding the work (piano score, full instrumentation, recordings, etc.) for a possible exception.

If a student is auditioning with a work for which score and parts are not readily available, the student is responsible for locating a supplier for the performance materials.

The performance materials should be of reasonable quality in terms of editing and printing. For pieces with continuo, an appropriate continuo part should be available. If rental or purchase cost of the performance materials and/or special instruments required for the piece is excessive, it may not be possible to present the performance. **Please consult the director of the Orchestra as early as possible,** but definitely before the preliminary auditions, if there are any questions.

FINAL AUDITIONS:

The student should provide a full orchestra score of the piece electronically to the preliminary audition committee and the Director of Orchestra. If a full score cannot be provided, the student should contact the conductor prior to the time of the preliminary auditions and provide one with a piano accompaniment instead.

The judges for the final auditions should agree on a rank ordering, indicating a cutoff point if appropriate. If for some reason a winning student cannot perform on the concert, the next person in the rank ordering will be asked to perform. If the committee determines that no performance is sufficiently strong, there will be no winner.

Each finalist should be prepared to perform all or any portions of the piece at the request of the judges. Extended introductions and interludes should be eliminated if possible.

The piece performed in the final auditions must be the same as that performed in the preliminary auditions, as indicated on the completed application form.

See next page for forms

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA
2020--2021 STUDENT SOLOIST COMPETITION
APPLICATION FORM**

Student: _____

Student's Phone Number: _____

Student's Email Address: _____

Applied Teacher: _____ Teacher's Approval (initial):

Category: ___ Undergraduate ___ Graduate

Area: ___ Woodwinds ___ Brass ___ Percussion/guitar/harp
 ___ Piano/keyboard ___ Voice ___ Strings

Instrument or voice: _____

Composer: _____

Title (complete): _____

Timing: _____

Timings should be based on actual performance time, not including the pauses between movements. Include timings of individual movements if appropriate.

REQUIRED: Source for performance materials (full orchestral score and orchestral parts). NOTE: If you are unable to find this, provide at least the name of the publisher of the score with piano accompaniment, and consult the Director of the Orchestra. If this is left blank, the application will be rejected.

Repertoire Approval: _____, Director, the Kent State University Orchestra

Each student must provide the director of the Kent State University Orchestra with a full orchestral score and have this section of the form signed by the director of the Orchestra prior to the Preliminary Auditions. If a full score is not available, the director of the Orchestra should be contacted well in advance of the Preliminary Auditions and provided with as much information as possible regarding the work (piano score, full instrumentation, recordings, etc.) for a possible exception.

This form should be submitted to the applied instructor. Forms should be submitted a minimum of one week in advance of the preliminary auditions, or earlier if required by the performance division faculty. Following the preliminary auditions this form should be submitted to the director of the Orchestra by the performance division faculty.

The student is responsible for providing the judges with a complete orchestral score at the time of the final auditions if at all possible. If a full score cannot be provided, the student should contact the director of the Orchestra in advance.

Please see the competition guidelines for additional information.

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STUDENT CHECKLIST

- 1) Consult with your applied teacher and select appropriate repertoire.
- 2) Complete the first section of the application form.

Note: Be sure to include information on the source for the performance materials (orchestral score and orchestral parts). For most pieces this can now be found on the Internet at one of the following sites:

- 1) If it's public domain, the piece will often have parts and a score available on IMSLP.org. (This is not a guarantee of public domain status, and parts printed from IMSLP will not be used in performance. The piece still needs to be available from a publisher.)
- 2) The web site of the publisher of the piece (sometimes in the publisher's rental library)
- 3) For standard repertoire, here are a few major public domain publishers

Kalmus: www.kalmus---music.com

Luck's Music: www.lucksmusic.com

Even if another publication might be used in the actual performance, these sites can be helpful in determining whether orchestral materials are available.

Please note that the availability of a solo part with piano accompaniment does not necessarily guarantee that full orchestral parts are available. There are times when even major works are temporarily out of print and unavailable. Pieces available on rental only are acceptable for the Competition.

- 3) Get your applied teacher to initial the form.
- 4) Submit the form with a copy of the complete orchestral score to the conductor for repertoire approval prior to the Preliminary Auditions. If a full score is not available, the conductor should be contacted well in advance of the Preliminary Auditions and provided with as much information as possible regarding the work (piano score, full instrumentation, recordings, etc.) for a possible exception. Repertoire must be approved by the conductor before you submit the official form to your applied teacher.
- 5) Submit the application form to your applied teacher. (Deadline: at least one week prior to the date of the divisional preliminary competition, or earlier if required by the performance division faculty)
- 6) Compete in the preliminary competition as determined by your performance division faculty.
If you have potential conflicts for specific audition times on the day of the final auditions, be sure to let the division faculty know so this can be conveyed to the conductor. Changes cannot be made after the final audition schedule is posted.
- 7) If you are selected as a finalist, check the Orchestra bulletin board for your assigned audition time.
- 8) Compete in the final auditions. Have fun and be awesome!