Eastern Connecticut
Symphony Orchestra

# Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra
# Instrumental Competition Guidelines - 2027

1. Competition finals will be held on **Saturday, March 13, 2027, at 11:00am** at Connecticut College, New London, CT. (Evans Hall in Cummings Arts Center)

2. Contestants must be 25 years of age or younger on the day of the competition finals, previous winners are not eligible.

3. A proof of age is required with the application, please email it to info@ectsymphony.com

4. Contestants must not be under professional management.

5. **Completed applications must be received in the office or by email on or before February 29, 2026 and include a good quality audio-only file (16-bit wav or 320 kbps mp3)** of one movement from the competition piece. **No other file types will be accepted.** This movement should demonstrate a range of technique, skill, and musicianship. The audio recording must be labeled with the contestant's name and instrument. **Deadline strictly observed.**

6. The first round is judged through audio file submission with accompaniment. Finalists will be notified by email or phone on Friday, February 12, 2026.

7. Contestants must appear at the final round at their expense. Volunteer-hosted housing can potentially be arranged for finalists from outside of the New England area, subject to availability.

8. In the final round, **contestants MUST provide their own accompanist** and may not participate without one. Contestants will assume any accompanist fees, as well as arranging for rehearsal ahead of time.

9. Works must be those originally written for solo instrument and standard symphony orchestra. Transposition or arrangements are not permitted.

10. Contestants will prepare ALL the movements of the same concerto at the finals that they played in the first round. The piece must be performed from memory.

11. The first prize winner will receive a cash award of $2,000 and a possible appearance as guest soloist with the orchestra. Second prize will be a $1,000 cash award. Third prize will be a $500 cash award.

12. The decisions of the judges shall be final and accepted by all entrants. The winner must perform the same piece with the orchestra unless the ECSO Music Director asks for a substitution.

13. A non-refundable registration fee of $50 must accompany a completed application.

14. Competition finals are open to the public; therefore, appropriate dress is suggested.