



**Women's Symphony Association (WSA)**  
**2024 Youth Instrumental Music Competition (YIMC)**

Dear Students, Teachers, and Parents,

This is the necessary information you will need to review before your participation in the **WSA's YIMC**. As in the past, students are competing for a \$5,000 scholarship, other monetary prizes as well as for one of **three** opportunities to perform with **Allegro Orchestra Lancaster** (Allegro). In addition, both the **Lancaster Symphony Orchestra** (LSO) and **Gretna Music** are planning to provide performance opportunities for YIMC participants. Furthermore, all contestants are invited to perform at the WSA Student Showcase on Sunday, May 5th. More information about all of these opportunities to follow.

All monetary awards are presented by the **WSA**.

Note: **Awards will be given only to those with an average Judges' score of at least 40 (please see attached Judge's Rubric).**

**New: The YIMC will be just ONE competition for participants in grades 9 through 12 inclusive. [There is no longer a Junior Division.]**

**YIMC Awards** (Grades 9 through 12) – **Saturday, March 9, 2024** from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm  
First United Methodist Church, 29 E. Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 (parking lot access from E. Lemon Street). There are three judging categories\* for the YIMC:

- Piano
- Strings
- Brass, Woodwind & Percussion
  - The **First-Place** winner in **each** category (**up to three first-place winners total**) receives: **\$300** AND the opportunity to perform with Allegro at its June 2024 concert.
  - The **Second-Place** winner in **each** category (**up to three second-place winners total**) receives: **\$200**.
  - The **Third-Place** winner in **each** category (**up to three third-place winners total**) receives: **\$100**.
- The **WSA Scholarship Winner** (to be chosen from among the three aforementioned First-Place winners) receives:
  - A \$5,000 college scholarship (\$1,250 per year).\*\*

*\* The number & organization of the categories subject to change based on the number of competitors. Changes, if any, will be made by the Coordinator of the YIMC in consultation with Dr. Brian Norcross, Artistic Director of Allegro. Any changes will be communicated to all participants in a timely manner.*

*\*\* The winner of this scholarship is not required to major in a music-related program, but must attend a college or university for four years in order to receive the full amount.*

**Deadline Information:**

Verify with Dr. Brian Norcross ([brian.norcross@fandm.edu](mailto:brian.norcross@fandm.edu)) your anticipated piece/repertoire by Friday, **12/29/2023**. Send your COMPLETE application packet by **1/31/2024**.

The requirements and application materials follow. We look forward to your participation this year!

Applications can also be found at our website: [WSALancaster.org](http://WSALancaster.org).

Please share with teachers and students who would be interested in our competition.

*A reminder: Being a resident of Lancaster County is NO LONGER a requirement for participation.*

Sincerely,

*Polly Pearce*

Polly Pearce, Coordinator  
2024 Youth Instrumental Music Competition  
(717) 333-0551  
[competition@WSALancaster.org](mailto:competition@WSALancaster.org)

Women's Symphony Association  
P.O. Box 6154, Lancaster, PA 17607-6154  
[WSALancaster.org](http://WSALancaster.org)

*A copy of the registration & financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

Please read carefully and completely:

The YIMC is open to all students in Grades 9-12.

Former WSA scholarship winners are **not** eligible to compete.

The registration deadline for the YIMC is **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**.

**NOTE: COMPETITION "Number of Entries" Limit:**

If there are too many applicants as regards the competition time constraints, the YIMC coordinator reserves the right to accept **complete applications** on a first come-first serve basis. *Please complete your application and submit it as soon as possible.*

**YIMC REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ENTRANTS:**

- This is a solo competition and is not open to ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, etc.).
- Repertoire: Competing performers choose their own repertoire. Works need to have an available orchestra accompaniment and be **13 minutes or less**. Longer repertoire selections will be considered by special request to Dr. Norcross. To confirm the orchestral availability, competing students will need to submit their repertoire selection to Dr. Brian Norcross of **Allegro** at [brian.norcross@fandm.edu](mailto:brian.norcross@fandm.edu). It is preferred that the solo repertoire not have any cuts. **Repertoire selections are due by Friday, December 29, 2023.**
- Performers must supply **four copies** of their performance piece with **EACH FIRST MEASURE NUMBERED** *[change for 2024]*. This will enable the judges to deliver a detailed evaluation.  
**[PLEASE make sure that all pages of your score are oriented the same (ALL "portrait" OR ALL "landscape").]**
- Performers are not required to memorize their competition piece.
- An **accompanist is required** for the performance.
- Performers must supply their own accompanist for the competition.
- During the competition, the accompanist should limit lengthy introductory accompaniment to just several lead-in measures. Our judges are only interested in the evaluation of the performer's skills. The movement, when played in its entirety, must fit the guidelines above.
- Performers must be able to perform their piece at the time of the competition and at a level which is suitable for performance with **Allegro Orchestra Lancaster**.
- Performers will appear for the competition in **concert dress** (*ask your instructor* for guidance on this).
- **NOTE:** *If a performer wishes to compete on no more than TWO distinct instruments, the performer must pay TWO application fees with TWO separate application packets. If said performer has two distinct private instructors, the WSA will need BOTH instructors' information.*
- Rehearsal times for the competition will be **Friday, March 8, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm.**
  - Rehearsals will be held at First United Methodist Church, 29 E. Walnut Street, Lancaster 17602 (parking lot access from E. Lemon Street).
  - **Notes:**
    - *The Coordinator will schedule specific rehearsal times for the performers.*
    - **Special competition and rehearsal time requests must be made with the return of your completed application.** *The Coordinator will try to accommodate all requests within the scheduling format.*
    - *The performances of the competition will be closed to the public except for the judging panel, members of the Women's Symphony Board, and the respective performer's music instructor & parents.*  
***To limit distractions of both students and the judges, we must ask all parents to sit in the back.***

**Contestants will be judged based on the attached rubric. The decisions of the judges are final. Great care is taken to supply qualified judges from the greater Lancaster music community.**

**Allegro's June Concert** – Details

YIMC performers at this concert will be the three senior category winners.

**Saturday, June 15, 2024, 7:30 pm**

@ the Gardner Theatre at Lancaster Country Day School, 725 Hamilton Rd, Lancaster PA 17603.

This concert will be open to the public.

*If a contestant is selected to perform here, the Rehearsals will occur on:*

**Tuesday 6/11, Thursday 6/13, and Friday 6/14 @ evening times & place(s) TBD.**

**Student Application Form**  
**Fill in completely and Return**

*Each participant will introduce her/him/themselves prior to her/his/their performance. If you need assistance, please consult your private instructor. Please be prepared for this.*

**[PLEASE PRINT NEATLY]**

**Registration Deadline for Junior and Senior the competition: Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

Participant's **First & Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address No./Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's **First & Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT'S EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_ **PARTICIPANT'S EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's** Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Participant's** Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ .

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ Years of study \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Private Instructor \_\_\_\_\_  
(indicate Dr./Ms./Mr./etc.)

Composer, Title, and Opus No. \_\_\_\_\_

**The duration of the work without cuts must not exceed 13 minutes, unless you have special permission from Dr. Norcross ([brian.norcross@fandm.edu](mailto:brian.norcross@fandm.edu)).**

Accompanist's **First & Last Name** (indicate Dr./Ms./Mr./etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ *Accompanist is required.*

I have read the rules of the competition and I agree to abide by all the rules and requirements.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent/Guardian (the one identified above) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants will be notified of their performance time at least one week in advance.

**Reminder to all ENTRANTS:**

If there are too many applicants as regards the competition time constraints, the YIMC coordinator reserves the right to accept **complete applications** on a first come-first serve basis. *Please complete your application and submit it as soon as possible.*

*Note: The WSA is committed to inclusion across race, gender, religion and identity.*

**Private Instructor Agreement Form**  
**Fill in completely and Return**

**[PLEASE PRINT NEATLY]**

**Registration Deadline for Junior and Senior Competitions: Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

Instructor's First & Last Name: (indicate Dr./Ms./Mr./etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address No./Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

Student's (Participant's) **First & Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Composer, Title, and Opus No. \_\_\_\_\_

**The duration of the work without cuts must not exceed 13 minutes, unless you have special permission from Dr. Norcross ([brian.norcross@fandm.edu](mailto:brian.norcross@fandm.edu)).**

I have read the rules of this competition and I agree to abide by all rules and requirements. I understand that NO cuts are to be made in the music for the soloist or the accompanist. I understand that the repertoire, when performed in its entirety, must not exceed 13 minutes in length. I also agree to work with my student's accompanist to ensure that all rules of the competition are followed.

Signature of Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be returned with your student's registration form. Without this form, your student's registration will not be complete.

***Each participant will introduce her/him/themselves prior to her/his/their performance.  
Please assist your student in preparing for this.***

*Note: The WSA is committed to inclusion across race, gender, religion and identity.*

**WSA Youth Instrumental Music Competition**  
**PHOTO/IMAGE CONSENT/RELEASE FORM**  
**Fill in completely and Return**

*I hereby grant to the Women's Symphony Association of Lancaster, PA (WSA) and its designees or assignees, my consent to use, in whole or in part, my photo or graphic image, as taken/created by WSA. This may be used for the purpose of reproducing, distributing, displaying publicly, and/or modifying the photo by any means, whether in print or electronically, on a royalty-free, world-wide basis. These photos/images may be used for advertising, publicity, and other purposes determined appropriate by WSA.*

*In regard to the use of these photos/images, I hereby waive any right that I may have to monetary compensation, or to inspect or approve the finished product, or the advertising or other uses made of the product. I also release WSA and its designees or assignees from any and all liability that may or could arise from the taking and use of these images.*

*I have read and understand the assignment and release conditions described above. All of my questions regarding this form have been answered to my satisfaction.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Parent/Guardian Must Sign for a Minor)*

Printed name of signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address No./Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email (only if Parent signed) \_\_\_\_\_ Participant's email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone (only if Parent signed) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Participant's Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**WSA Youth Instrumental Competition  
Registration Checklist  
Fill in completely and Return**

Participant's **First & Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Ensure that each of the following is enclosed *in the following order*:

**TOP**

1. **\$20.00** non-refundable check made out to the Women's Symphony Association
2. Performer's complete and signed registration form
3. Private Instructor's complete and signed registration form
4. One non-returnable recent photo of the performer, high quality, glossy (300dpi) 3"x5" or 2"x4"
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Completed and signed (by parent) photo release (attached).
6. Four copies of your performance piece with **every FIRST measure numbered\***.  
[Photocopies are acceptable for these copies, and will be recycled after the competition.]
- \* **EVERY FIRST MEASURE MUST BE NUMBERED.**

7. This completed checklist

**BOTTOM**

Unless you have a message for the YIMC Coordinator, ***nothing else should be included*** in your application packet.

Please mail all of the above by **Wednesday, January 31, 2024** to:

***Polly Pearce  
12 Red Leaf Lane  
Lancaster, PA 17602-7000***

Youth Instrumental Music Competition  
Women's Symphony Association  
(717) 333-0551  
[competition@WSAlancaster.org](mailto:competition@WSAlancaster.org)

Women's Symphony Association  
2022 Youth Instrumental Music Competition  
JUDGES' FORM/RUBRIC

Competitor/Instrument/Piece

Judge the competitor in each of the categories below on a scale from 1 to 10, where 10 represents the best.

Use the following as guidelines as you judge each category:

- 8-10: Competitor demonstrates mastery of most to all of the descriptors in the category.
- 6-7: Competitor demonstrates mastery of some key descriptors in the category.
- 4-5: Competitor demonstrates mastery of only a few descriptors in the category.  
OR Competitor is inconsistent in demonstrating mastery of some to most of the descriptors in the category.
- 1-3: Competitor demonstrates little to no mastery of most to all of the descriptors in the category.

**<<<<< Award Winners (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> place winners) must attain a minimum average Judges' Score of 40 >>>>>**

	Comments/ Constructive Criticism	Score 1 - 10
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Tone Quality</u></b></p> <p>Beauty, resonance, control of ranges, clarity, focus, consistency, warmth</p>		<b>10</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Interpretation/Musicianship</u></b></p> <p>Style, artistry, phrasing, tempo, dynamics, emotional involvement, expression, continuity, mood</p>		<b>10</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Presentation</u></b></p> <p>Balance with accompaniment Choice/Challenge of piece Mastery of technical difficulty</p>		<b>10</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Technique</u></b></p> <p>Intonation, rhythm/rhythmic consistency, attacks and releases, stability of pulse, ornamentation, physical articulation (posture/playing position)</p>		<b>20</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Other Factors</u></b></p> <p>Appearance, improvisation, poise, stage presence, etc.</p>		<b>10</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Following All Directions</u></b> Yes or No. Determined by Coordinator or her designee prior to competition..</p>	<p><b>←←←←← NOTE - Please pay attention!</b></p> <p><i>Note to judges: unless otherwise indicated, the score is 2.</i></p>	<b>2</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>

Judge's Printed Name & Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_