



Application Form is available at
<https://app.getacceptd.com/tampabaysymphony>

Please direct questions via email to
yac@tampabaysymphony.org

Auditions are now being accepted for the Tampa Bay Symphony 41st Annual Jack Heller Young Artist Competition.

The winner will perform as a soloist with the Tampa Bay Symphony.

Instrumental and vocal entries are eligible. For this season only, we will not be accepting piano entries. All musical selections must be from the standard orchestral repertoire, composed for that instrument/voice and symphony orchestra, and must not exceed twenty minutes in length.

Competition finalists will perform at a public audition before a panel of judges to determine the winner.

The winner will perform with the Tampa Bay Symphony at the Winter 2027 Concert Series (Feb 12, 14 & 16, 2027) and will receive a cash award of \$3,000.

See Competition Rules for details.

The Jack Heller Young Artist Competition Rules

1. Instrumental and vocal entries are eligible. For this season only, we will not be accepting piano entries. Applicants must be age 24 and under (must not reach age 25 prior to date of final audition) and must be studying or residing in Florida.
2. Applicants must submit an online application form at <https://app.getacceptd.com/tampabaysymphony>.
3. Please follow all directions on the form. A \$35 non-refundable entry fee will be charged. Recordings will be uploaded during this application process. Please do not mail applications to our PO Box. **The deadline to submit an application is September 30, 2026.**
4. **All musical selections must be works from the standard repertoire** and composed for that instrument/voice and symphony orchestra. **Selections must be in the public domain**, otherwise costs will be covered by some/all of winnings.
5. Vocalists must prepare 2 arias of contrasting styles, performed in original key and language.
6. Accompaniment by a teacher or pianist is optional for the submitted audition. Accompaniment enhancement (MIDI, digital, taped, or any other type of accompaniment support) is prohibited.
7. Auditioning committee will select and notify up to 6 finalists no later than October 24, 2026. Decisions of the audition committee are final; due to the number of entries individual feedback is not possible.
8. Finalists will perform at a public audition before a panel of judges on Saturday, November 21, 2026, 10:30am at the Steinway Piano Gallery, 5990 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, FL 33760. Memorization is required. Each finalist will receive \$150 for participating at the public audition.
9. Piano accompanists are required at the live finalist auditions. Audition finalists are responsible for their own

travel expenses and must provide four copies of the original piano score at the finalist auditions.

10. All music to be performed shall not exceed 20 minutes in length, and must be the same selection the student intends to perform with the Tampa Bay Symphony (TBS).

11. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the live audition. All decisions of the judges are final.

12. Winner will provide TBS with 2 high-quality color photos and a biography of not more than 250 words within 2 weeks of being selected.

13. Winner will perform as a soloist with TBS at the 3-concert Winter 2027 series: Feb 12, 14 & 16, 2027. Winner is required to attend 3 evening rehearsals: Jan 26, Feb 2 & Feb 9, 2027. Concert and rehearsal dates are subject to change.

14. The winner is responsible for all travel expenses. A \$3,000 cash award will be presented at the final concert. In the case of a tie, the award will be split between winners.

15. If, in the opinion of the judges, the quality of performance at the final audition is not at a sufficiently high level, they may recommend that no award be given that year.

16. Applicant shall not be a member of TBS and shall not have been a winner on the same instrument within the previous 3 years.

17. Application constitutes the contestant's authorization to use their name, photo, and biographical information in all forms of media used to promote current and future competitions/performances.

18. Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification of the applicant and/or forfeiture of any award.

19. Application and interpretation of the above rules shall be at the sole discretion of the TBS Board of Directors.