

2025-26 CONCERTO COMPETITION

FINAL AUDITIONS will be held in Grusin Music Hall
Sunday, March 29, 2026 beginning at 12:30 p.m.

DEADLINES

Collaborative pianist request: Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, noon
Student entrant online application form: Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026

ELIGIBILITY:

- Competitors must be full-time students at the time of the audition.
- Previous winners are NOT eligible to compete again to allow more opportunities for other students.
- Students entering as an ensemble: Each member must be eligible. Ensembles including students from more than one department can only compete in one departmental preliminary competition.

PRELIMINARIES: Each of the following departments—Brass/Percussion, Keyboard, Strings, Voice and Woodwinds will hold preliminary auditions between Feb. 16-27, 2026, and shall select up to **three** representatives for the final auditions. The jury will choose the specific passages they would like to hear. Candidates are **not** to make their own cuts in the solo portions of the music. Each department may send forward either two undergraduates and one graduate student **or** two graduate students and one undergraduate. Only the most outstanding students should be recommended for the finals.

FINALS: Playing time in the finals will be 12 minutes maximum—contestants will be scheduled every 15 minutes, or less if the repertoire is shorter. Candidates are **not** to make their own cuts in the solo portions of the music. The Concerto Competition jury will determine what part(s) of the prepared work will be heard at the audition. Accommodations will not be made for individual schedules during the final round of competition. Order of performance will be determined by draw.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Instrumentalists:** For the preliminary round, entrants will prepare one movement of a concerto (or piece for soloist and orchestra) for the departmental preliminary round. If the work is in one-movement, then the entire work will be prepared. In the case that one movement is less than 6 minutes long, an additional movement(s) may be added not to exceed 10 minutes.

The students chosen to move forward to the final round of competition will prepare their work in its entirety for the finals jury.

- **Singers:** Singers may prepare concert arias, operatic arias, or songs written with orchestral accompaniment. They should prepare up to three different selections, which may include duets. The total time should not exceed 15 minutes and may not include material from operas performed at CU during the past two years. The same program will be presented for both the preliminary and final round.

Works performed by the previous year's winners cannot be entered into the competition.

Memorization is not required but may be a factor during consideration by the judges.

Non-standard repertoire must be cleared with Professor Gary Lewis. Solo works with Wind Symphony will also be considered, in which case, the repertoire should be cleared with Professor Shanti Simon. Concerto featuring multiple soloists are acceptable. Two essential criteria should be considered when choosing and requesting approval for repertoire. First, the total duration of the piece must allow it to fit comfortably into a typical orchestral or wind symphony program. Second, bear in mind the limited amount of rehearsal time: if the ensemble parts are too complex, the piece is unlikely to be programmed. When in doubt, please check directly with Profs. Lewis or Simon.

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COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS: Collaborative pianists must be secured by Monday, Jan. 13, 2026 at noon.

- Instrumentalists must fill out the online collaborative pianist request form AND turn in music to the collaborative piano department by this deadline.
- Singers must contact the collaborative piano department for repertoire and pianist approval by this deadline.

Collaborative pianists must remain the same in every round of the competition.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

There will be two winners, one undergraduate and one graduate student, who will be featured with the University Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra or Wind Symphony in the 2026-27 academic year.

Winners of the competition who graduate between the time of the audition and their scheduled performance will be invited to return as soloists at their own expense. Any student winner who has discontinued study prior to graduation will be ineligible to perform as soloist.

Competitors must submit *current* information documenting the availability of orchestral parts for the music on their programs: publisher, edition #, and date.

An online application form is available [here](#) and must be completed by Jan. 15, 2026.