

# **Shattuck-St. Mary's Scholarship Competition Official Rules & Guidelines**

The Shattuck-St. Mary's Scholarship Competition is established to recognize and encourage outstanding young musicians by awarding scholarships that support further musical study and development.

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## **1. Eligibility**

Open to students who meet the following criteria:

- applicants must be currently enrolled in, or eligible to enroll in, a pre-college music program within the United States for the 2025–2026 academic year. U.S. citizenship is not required, but participants must have valid documentation permitting study or residence in the United States at the time of the competition.
- actively studying privately (or through a school) their chosen instrument or voice.
- in grade 5-11 (rising 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders)

Employees of SSM (administrative or music faculty) and their immediate family members are not eligible for cash-prize competition, although they may participate for non-cash recognition.

## **2. Categories & Divisions**

Instruments/voice categories will include:

- Piano
- Strings (violin, viola, cello, bass)

- Voice
- Winds/Brass/Percussion/Guitar

Each instrument is further divided into a Middle School and Upper School division:

- Middle School – rising 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
- Upper School – rising 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Each category and division will have a minimum number of 5 entrants to qualify; if that minimum is not reached, that division may be cancelled or merged, at the discretion of the competition committee.

### **3. Timeline, Application, and Fee**

Applications open: November 25

Application and video submission **deadline:** February 28

Finalists notified: March 10

In-person finals: April 11

Winners' Recital: April 11 5:00pm

Applicants must complete an online application form, an application fee of \$25, and their preliminary video by February 28, 2026.

### **4. Repertoire & Performance Requirements**

Contestants will perform two contrasting works, from different stylistic periods (e.g., Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary).

Maximum performance time for the preliminary video is 10 minutes. Maximum performance time for the final round is 15 minutes. Students may perform their pieces with cuts. (details below, section 10)

Live accompaniment is encouraged. Pre-recorded accompaniment or other methods may be permitted if no other option is available; judges will not penalize pre-recorded or virtual accompaniment.

### **5. Rounds & Format**

- Preliminary Video Round: Due by Feb 28, 2026
- Final Round: Selected finalists will perform in front of a panel of judges live at Shattuck-St. Mary's on April 11. The finals round will be open to an audience, but will not be a recital format.
- Winner's Recital: Winners will be announced and invited to perform in a winners' recital that evening at Shattuck-St. Mary's School.

## **6. Prizes & Use of Awards**

The Grand Prize of a \$20,000 tuition scholarship can be used only by the student to whom it is granted in the following year of the competition (2026-27). The scholarship is non-transferable. Cash scholarships will be awarded in each category/division for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. 1<sup>st</sup> place prize-winners will receive \$1000 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize-winners will receive \$750. Recipients agree to use the award for further musical education.

If a prize is declined or not used within a stated timeframe, SSM reserves the right to reallocate or rescind.

## **7. Judging & Rules Compliance**

A panel of qualified judges will evaluate performances and offer written critiques to each student.

Decisions of the judges and competition committee are final.

Critique sheets will be mailed to each contestant.

Winners will be posted online and notified directly.

## **8. Winners' Recital and Announcement**

The competition will conclude with a Winners' Recital on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Students must be present in order to receive their award.

## **9. Additional Terms**

Any entrant found misrepresenting eligibility may be disqualified. SSM reserves the right to cancel, modify, or postpone the competition in case of unforeseen circumstances. By participating, entrants grant SSM non-exclusive rights to use their name, photograph, performance recording for promotional use unless they decline in writing. Application fee is non-refundable. SSM may publish winners' names and prize amounts.

## 10. Preliminary Round: Video Submission Guidelines

### Video Requirements

- **No more than two total videos** must be submitted – one combined video **or** one video per repertoire selection.
- Each video must be recorded in **one continuous, unedited take**.
- No audio or video editing is permitted beyond a brief fade-in and/or fade-out.
- No spoken introductions, announcements, or verbal identification.
- No warm-ups may be included.

### Length Requirements

- **Maximum total performance time:** 10 minutes
- Performances significantly under 4 minutes total are strongly discouraged.

### Visual Framing & Recording Standards

- The student's **hands must be fully visible** at all times.
- For pianists, the **keyboard must be clearly visible**.
- If possible, record from the **audience perspective**.
- The performance space should be well lit and free from background noise.
- Collaborative pianists are **not required** to be visible, but it is encouraged.

Students are encouraged to dress as they would for a formal recital or in-person audition, although there is no specific dress code.

### File Naming and Anonymity

Videos must be titled using the following format:

**SSMCompetition\_Grade\_Instrument**

Example: *SSMCompetition\_8\_Clarinet*

The description must include the name of the piece, composer, and movement (if applicable). The description must *not* include the student's or teacher's name.

### Submission Instructions

- Upload the video to **YouTube** and mark it as **Unlisted**.
- Email the video link to **SSMMusicCompetition@gmail.com** by the stated deadline.
- You will receive a confirmation within one day after a successful video submission.

## **11. Contact & Questions**

For more information, please contact the Shattuck-St. Mary's Scholarship Competition Coordinator at [benjamin.downs@s-sm.org](mailto:benjamin.downs@s-sm.org) or [peter.schleif@s-sm.org](mailto:peter.schleif@s-sm.org). Further details and the official application form are available at <https://www.s-sm.org/arts/ssm-music-competition>.