42nd Annual Lee Oler Young Artists' Competition

Date

Sunday, January 24, 2027

Location

Pima Community College Center for the Arts, West Campus
2202 W Anklam Road, Tucson, AZ

Eligibility

Students (ages 9-18) from Southern Arizona and Northern Sonora are eligible to compete in the solo and ensemble competition.

Prizes

Note: If no entrant in a category meets the judges' criteria, no prize will be awarded.

Junior Division (Grades 3-8) $200 First Place, $100 Second Place	**Senior Division (Grades 9-12)** $300 First Place, $150 Second Place
Solo Categories: Strings, Piano, Winds, Percussion, Harp	**Solo Categories:** Strings, Piano, Winds, Percussion, Harp

Ensembles: 2-10 musicians, Grades 3-12
$300 First Place, $150 Second Place (Shared between players)

Performance Opportunity

The Civic Orchestra of Tucson (COT) Music Director selects who among the winners will play their solo with the orchestra. Selection will depend on multiple factors such as availability and affordability of orchestra parts, venue, and suitability of the piece with the orchestra's concert program. ***A winner is not guaranteed the opportunity to perform with the orchestra.***

NEW First-place solo category winners from last year's competition **are** eligible to win first-place the following year; however, they **are not** eligible to perform with the orchestra in two consecutive years.

NEW Rehearsal Reading Opportunity

One or two winners will be selected by the Music Director to practice their solo with the orchestra in a 40-minute Rehearsal Reading Session, following the competition.

Rules

Audition Music

- ✓ Audition pieces are limited to 10 minutes. Edit your piece to fit within the time limit, but be sure to **include the ending**.
- ✓ The competition piece for a solo entrant must be a movement from a concerto or other solo piece with orchestral accompaniment from the standard repertoire.
- ✓ Entrants may not audition with more than one piece as a soloist on the same instrument. An entrant may audition as a soloist on another instrument and/or as a member of an ensemble.
- ✓ Solo entrants must memorize their piece. Ensemble entrants need not memorize their music.

Accompanists

- ✓ Solo entrants must provide their own accompanist. All entrants and accompanists must notify us of any conflicts with assigned competition times by **Jan 8**.
- ✓ Accompanists who are working with more than 3 entrants must be able to accompany students who are scheduled back-to-back. We cannot make the timing work otherwise.

Additional Requirements

- ✓ All entrants must provide a high-resolution photo of themselves with their instruments. Please email the photo in advance to yac@cotmusic.org. Parents must check the "use of photo permission" on the registration form.
- ✓ **All entrants must bring three (3) copies of their music to the audition (for the judges) with every measure individually numbered.**
- ✓ Winners who perform with the orchestra will be asked to provide biographical material.

Registration and Payment

Online Registration Opens November 1, 2026	**Registration Deadline** January 8, 2027

- To register, use the online registration form. Go to "Outreach" and select "Young Artists' Competition." **The $35 registration fee (non-refundable)** must be paid online with a credit card on the COT website (www.cotmusic.org).
- A separate fee and registration are required for each audition.
- You will be notified of your audition time the week prior to the competition.

Questions? Visit www.cotmusic.org (Select >Outreach >Young Artists' Competition)
Email yac@cotmusic.org