

The Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra

September 26, 2025

Dear High School Music Director,

Greetings from the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra. Here's hoping your music season is off to a great start! It is our sincere hope that you will take a moment to look over this information, store it in an accessible place in your mind, on your desk or pinned to a bulletin board and recall it as you get to know the talents and abilities of your music students.

Perhaps you have students who were accepted into All State band, choir or orchestra. We believe these musicians would enjoy an opportunity to also play or sing with the Symphony! Or maybe you will recall this note as you choose contest solos next spring and select literature that would lend itself to this opportunity.

The Ottumwa Symphony has a sincere desire to nurture young talent, and you are our best source of information when it comes to discovering and enjoying that talent. We also believe that your encouragement can make a big difference as they contemplate this adventure. Thank you for the work you do, for the hours you spend, and for your care and concern for your students. We look forward to hearing from you and meeting some of these gifted individuals in person!

Henry Weberpal, Daphne Palen, Newell Palen: Young Artist Committee; Luke Miller, Board President; Patty Babb, manager Ottumwa Symphony

P.O. Box 173 • Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Ottumwa Symphony Young Artists' Competition Rules

Eligibility

- For strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, piano, voice, harp and guitar.
- Must be in high school (grades 9-12) and have not reached 19 years of age on the application deadline date.
- Contestants must live in Iowa.
- Previous winners who have performed with the orchestra are not eligible to compete on the same instrument in successive years.
- Contestants may audition in one medium (piano, voice, instrument)

Audition Requirements

- All contestants are expected to perform either a movement of a concerto or a composition for solo instrument/voice and orchestra.
- Those auditioning are encouraged to perform from memory.
- The use of piano accompaniment is required for all contestants. Each applicant is expected to provide his/her own accompanist. Please abbreviate lengthy tutti passages in the accompaniment.
- Compositions must be no longer than 15 minutes.
- One original score of each selection to be performed must be provided to the judges on the day of the competition. No photocopies are allowed.

NOTES: 1. Because of the difficulty and cost of obtaining some orchestra parts, acceptability of your selection is at the discretion of the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra. 2. Entrants must be available on Friday, February 20 for rehearsal, and Saturday, February 21 for rehearsal and concert. Other rehearsals may be arranged. Please contact Henry Weberpal at: henry.weberpal@ottumwaschools.com with additional questions.

The Competition

- Will be held Sunday, December 7th, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church, 228 W. 4th Street, Ottumwa, Iowa. Competitors may arrive at 12:00 PM.
- Each contestant will receive his/her performance time by Sunday, November 30th, 2025.
- A panel of judges will select the winner.
- First Prize is \$300 and a performance on the March concert of the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra*
- Second Prize is \$200 and 3rd Place is awarded \$100.

Note: Decisions of the Ottumwa Symphony Young Artist Competition committee are final and as a stipulation of participation, applicants agree to abide by those decisions.

**Performance with the Orchestra will be at the discretion of the Conductor and the panel of judges.*

APPLICATION SUBMISSION & DEADLINE: Send application to: Henry Weberpal, 1106 North Jay Street, Ottumwa, IA 52501, or by email to henry.weberpal@ottumwaschools.com. Deadline: November 23, 2025

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

2025-2026

Name _____ Instrument/Voice _____

Address _____ City & Zip. _____

High School you attend _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent's Names _____ Telephone _____

Selection _____ Composer _____

Published by _____

Accompanist's Name and email _____

Your email address _____

Instructor's Name & email: _____

Parental Permission:

As legal parent or guardian of the above applicant, I give the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra permission for the applicant to participate in the Ottumwa Symphony Young Artist Competition and grant the Ottumwa Symphony permission to publish the applicant's name. By entering this competition, I accept the rules and decisions of the Ottumwa Symphony Young Artist committee as final.

Parent or Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Please send your application by mail to:

Henry Weberpal
1106 North Jay Street
Ottumwa, IA, 52501

Or by email to: henry.weberpal@ottumwaschools.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Sunday, November 23, 2025

To: Area Band, Orchestra and Choral Directors, Private instrumental, voice and piano teachers and other interested parties:

From: Luke Miller, President, Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra

This year the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra is again sponsoring a Young Artist Competition for high school students.

The competition will be held:

- Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 1:00 PM, with competitors being able to arrive at 12:00.
- At First Presbyterian Church, 228 W. 4th Street, Ottumwa, Iowa
- The competition is limited to high school aged students (grades 9-12) who live in Iowa
- Previous winners who have performed on the concert are not eligible to compete on the same instrument in successive years.

The winners:

- First Place will receive \$300
- If selected must agree to appear at the February 21, 2026 concert with the Symphony at the Bridge View Center
- 2nd place cash prize is \$200, 3rd place \$100
- Cash prizes will be awarded whether or not a contestant is selected to appear with the Symphony

Auditions:

- Each participant must be accompanied by piano
- Each participant will have a 20 minute time slot
- Order of appearance will be done by random drawing
- An orchestral accompaniment supplied by the Symphony must be available for the entrant's selection.
- Participants must provide the judges with a copy of the solo and piano accompaniment.

Entry Deadline: Entries must be received by Sunday, November 23, 2025.

The rules and entry form are enclosed. Your questions, comments and suggestions will be welcomed.

Send entries by email to: henry.weberpal@ottumwaschools.com