



63rd Annual Chandler Starr Miller Scholarship Competition 2024-2025 Rules

The Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center, through its Chandler Starr Miller Scholarship Competition, endeavors to foster a love of music and the joy of active participation in the performing arts. The many benefits of participation in music include memory and concentration skills, poise, self-discipline and the familiarity with great music and musicians, which enhances the quality of life at all ages.

~ former chair Eleanor Stanlis (1922-2000)

Divisions and Format

There are two divisions: Open Division for 8- to 18-year-olds, Junior Division for 8- to 12-year-olds.

The Junior Division has 3 categories: Piano, Strings, and Other. Entrants will submit their performance video, their scanned music score, will be judged remotely, and will receive a written evaluation from this expert remote judge. The Junior Division has only this single phase. Therefore, Junior Division entrants will not be eligible to be selected as a Scholarship Finalist to perform at the Finalist Recital. However, Junior Division entrants would be required to attend the Finalist Recital should they be selected to receive a Junior Division competition award.

The Open Division has 4 categories: Piano, Strings, Voice, and Other. The Open Division will have 2 phases: the initial virtual competition, and the in-person Finalist Recital. Entrants will submit their performance video, their scanned music score, will be judged remotely, and will receive a written evaluation from this expert remote judge. All Open Division contestants will be eligible to become a Scholarship Finalist, regardless of age. Finalists will be chosen at the virtual judges' sole discretion. Up to six finalists will be chosen to compete at the in-person Finalist Recital where a panel of three judges will determine the Scholarship awards. To maximize objectivity, the finalist judges will be different individuals than the virtual judges.

Contestants aged 8 to 12 may enter either the Junior Division or the Open Division. Contestants may not enter both divisions in the same instrument category. (A student aged 8 to 12 could opt to enter in the Junior Division in one category (e.g., Piano) and in the Open Division in another category (e.g., Strings). Contestants aged 13 to 18 will enter the Open Division.

Entry Fees And Dates

ENTRY FEE: \$30.00 per each musical category entered. Entry fees are not refundable unless a withdrawal is requested in writing prior to the stated entry deadline.

PAYMENT: Online payment at time of registration.

DEADLINE: All materials (including video and music pdf) and payment must be received no later than **Friday, January 31, 2025**. See ***Online Registration & Attestation*** below.

IMPORTANT: ***Entrants are encouraged to submit entries early, so that any problems can be identified and corrected prior to the deadline.*** Entrants, parents/guardians, and teachers are responsible for making sure entries are submitted completely and in required format. After the submission deadline, Mendelssohn Club is not responsible for notifying entrants, parents/guardians, or teachers of incomplete/missing forms and/or entry fees.

Eligibility

1. Entrants ages as of December 31, 2024 (including foreign exchange students) taking private music lessons, students in school music ensembles, or students in established music ensembles taught by professional musicians.
2. Entrants must reside in one of the following Illinois counties: Winnebago, Boone, Carroll, Ogle, DeKalb, Stephenson, Jo Daviess, McHenry, Lee, or Whiteside; or the following Wisconsin counties: Grant, Green, Lafayette, Rock, or Walworth.
3. Past First-Place Winners may participate in the same Open Division category in which they won previously, provided they are otherwise eligible.
4. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to Mendelssohn Club at info@mendelssohnpac.org.

Rules

1. Performance entries for Junior and Open Division must be submitted as videos using mp4 format. The video's File Name must identify the Entrant. Video content must also identify the entrant and the work being performed. See **Video File Upload Procedures** below.
2. All entries must be accompanied by scanned sheet music of the work being performed, with measures numbers, in a pdf file format. See **Sheet Music PDF Upload Procedure** below.
3. To be considered complete, entries must include Performance Video and sheet music, sent to Mendelssohn Club in accordance with these Rules (See the **Procedures** section below) **no later than noon Friday, January 31st, 2025**.
4. Open Division entrants compete in one of four categories: Piano, Strings (violin, viola, cello, and contrabass), Voice, and Other. Junior Division entrants compete in three categories: Piano, Strings, and Other.
5. **Number of Works:** Entrants in Non-Voice divisions submit one complete work. Voice Entrants may submit two complete works.
6. **Time:** Maximum performance time is ten minutes.
7. **Memorized:** Performances MUST be from memory.
8. **Acoustic Only:** No electric or electronic instruments of any kind are permitted for either Entrants or Accompanists.
9. **Literature Restrictions:** Piano concerti, pop tunes, feature film theme songs, Disney songs, and Broadway show songs are not permitted.
10. **Original Language:** Voice entries must be in the original language in which the work was written. Language proficiency is part of the Voice division judging.
11. **Solos:** Duets and ensembles are not permitted.
12. **Accompanists:** All Entrants must provide their own accompanists, if needed. Judges have stressed that the skill level of accompanists can hinder or enhance the performance. Don't wait to find an accompanist – *start now*.
13. Accompanists must be always visible in the Performance Video. Live accompaniment ONLY.
14. Entrants must be always visible in the Performance Video. Hands of non-Voice Entrants must be always visible.

15. All Scholarship & Contestant Awards are granted at the Judges' sole discretion. Judges' decisions are final. No ties will be awarded.
16. All Entrants will receive copies of the virtual Judges' written critiques. ***Attendance at the Finalist Recital at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, 2025 is required to receive Junior Division Awards, Open Division Non-Finalist Awards and Open Division Finalist Scholarship Awards.***
17. Mendelssohn Club reserves the right to alter or amend these rules in particular cases if in its sole judgement doing so advances the Scholarship Competition's purposes. Any such decision is not subject to appeal or dispute.

Video Quality and Taping at Mendelssohn

Tips for improved Performance Video quality. Mendelssohn is offering an online video-making tutorial. Watch the MPAC web site for the video-making tutorial.

Quality of instruments and recording used in the Performance Video matters, for both Entrant and Accompanist. Judges' evaluations cannot help but be influenced by out of tune or otherwise deficient instruments. Accordingly, Mendelssohn is offering - **free of charge** - the use of the Reitsch Room and its Steinway grand piano for videotaping CSM entrant performances. Use of the Reitsch Room is limited to one hour per contestant. Entrants are strongly encouraged to phone the Mendelssohn Office to reserve your free 1-hour time slot.

2025 Scholarship Awards

At the remote judges' sole discretion, Junior Division contestants within each instrumental category may be granted Competition Awards of up to \$100.

All Open Division entrants are eligible to compete in the Scholarship Finalist Recital, regardless of age group. Up to six entrants may be chosen for the Finalist Recital – two each from the Piano and String divisions, one each from the Voice and Other divisions. Remote Judges may decide to not choose a Finalist from a particular division if, in the Judges' discretion, no Entrant in that division is sufficiently advanced to compete at the Finalist level. At the Recital, Finalists must perform the same piece as they submitted in their performance video. Voice Finalists who submit two pieces on their video must perform both pieces.

All Finalists will receive a Scholarship Award. Finalist Scholarship Awards are as follows:

First Place:	\$1,000 Chandler Starr Miller Award
Second Place:	\$750 L.A. Frisbie Miller Award
Third Place:	\$500 Jane Lyons Award
Honorable Mentions:	\$300 Chandler Starr Miller Award

At the remote judges' sole discretion, Non-Finalists within each age group and instrumental category may be granted Awards of up to \$100.

Online Registration & Attestation

1. Go to the Mendelssohn website at <https://www.mendelssohnpac.org>. Find the “Education” drop-down at the top of the page, scroll down to and click on “Chandler Starr Miller Scholarship Competition.”
2. Provide all information requested on the Registration and Attestation Forms.

Performance Video File Upload Procedure

1. Go to <https://wettransfer.com/log-in> and create a free account using the same contact information (Name, Address, E-Mail Address, etc.) as on the Registration Form.
2. Upload the Performance Video File (**MP4 format only**) to info@mendelssohnpac.org. **Make sure the Entrant is identified in both the Performance Video and the Video’s File Name.**
3. The upload will take a few minutes. You should receive a Confirmation E-Mail from We Transfer when the upload is complete. **Contact Mendelssohn immediately if you do not receive a Confirmation E-Mail.**
4. You will also receive an E-Mail from We Transfer when Mendelssohn has downloaded your video. **Contact Mendelssohn immediately if you have not received this E-Mail within three days of submission.**
5. The importance of the Performance Video’s audio and visual quality cannot be overstated. Background noise, out of tune or otherwise inadequate instruments, and cluttered backgrounds must be avoided. Mendelssohn can provide some guidance on improving audio and visual quality; and **strongly recommends Entrants utilize Mendelssohn’s Reitsch Room and Steinway grand piano as a recording venue.** One hour of recording time is offered each contestant **free of charge**. Contact Mendelssohn to reserve a time.

Sheet Music Upload Procedure

1. Create a Cover Page identifying the applicant and the work being performed.
2. Number the measures on the sheet music.
3. Scan the pages to create a PDF file containing all pages.
4. Upload the sheet music PDF using WeTransfer in the same manner as the Performance Video.
5. Contact Mendelssohn immediately if you do not receive Confirmation E-Mails from We Transfer following submission.