

Classical Instrumental Guidelines

I want to apply! Am I eligible to participate?

1. Are you enrolled in a high school, approved independent study, or home school program at the application deadline? **OR** If you attend a correspondence school, do you live in Southern California?
2. Do you live in any of the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Diego?

If you answered YES to both questions, you are eligible!

Other notes of interest:

- Previous grand prize finalists are **not** eligible
- Previous participants, semifinalists, and honorable mentions **are** eligible
- If you have any relationship with a Spotlight Awards judge (family, friend, or instructor) please let us know. Not sharing this information may result in disqualification.
- You can apply to more than one category; however you will only be allowed to advance to finals in one, determined by which category you advance to the finals first.
- **You can only have one audition per category.** If you create multiple accounts to schedule more than one audition in a category, you may be disqualified

For International Students: In order to be eligible to receive scholarship and/or prize money, students must have a Social Security Number (SSN) or United States Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). The processing time required to receive an SSN or ITIN can take several weeks. International students applying for the Spotlight program are strongly encouraged to apply for an SSN or ITIN at the same time. Please contact the Spotlight office if you have any questions.

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What's required of me for my Classical Instrumental Audition?

- **You must perform your pieces from memory at your audition**
- You must present two solo pieces
- **Piano:** Concertos are not allowed; only solo piano pieces
- **All other instruments:** Pieces written with accompaniment must be performed with an accompanist.
- Your audition is 10 minutes. Both pieces together must fit within 10 minutes; eliminate repeats or make cuts in longer pieces. The judges do not hold it against you that you did not play the entire piece.
- One of your pieces must be from the **Baroque or Classical periods** (1650-1820 Example: Bach, Mozart, Vivaldi, Beethoven, Haydn, etc.)
- Your second piece must be from the **Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary periods** (1820-present Example: Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Stravinsky, Bartók, Hindemith, etc.)
- Franz Schubert may be considered as either a Classical or Romantic period composer. Both audition pieces cannot be composed by Schubert
- If you choose a Contemporary piece as your second selection, please email us the name of the composer of your contemporary piece for approval at spotlight@musiccenter.org
- Original compositions written by applicants are not allowed
- Do not bring in photocopies of music
- You may only apply to this category with one instrument. **You cannot apply with more than one instrument.** If you create multiple user accounts to apply more than once to the Classical Instrumental category with different instruments, you may be disqualified.