



American String Teachers Association 2011 National Solo Competition Guidelines

Abridged for the 2010 Massachusetts ASTA State Competition

For complete guidelines, visit: <http://www.astaweb.com> and navigate to the Solo Competition page under "Competitions."

1) Eligibility

- A. Instrumental categories are Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Classical Guitar, and Harp.
- B. Participants must be ASTA members or a student of a current professional ASTA member. Proof of membership is required.
- C. For the state competition, participants may enter in their state of residency or the state in which they are studying. Under no circumstances will a participant be allowed to enter more than one state's competition.
- D. There are two levels, the **Junior Division** and the **Senior Division**. The Junior Division is open to musicians under the age of 19 as of March 20, 2011 (born on or after March 20, 1992). The Senior Division is open to musicians 19–25 as of March 20, 2011 (born on or after March 20, 1986 and before March 20, 1992).
- E. A copy of an official document proving the entrant's birth date (e.g. birth certificate, passport, license etc.) **MUST** be submitted with the application.
- F. Previous Winners: All eligible previous entrants may enter the competition again, including previous National Finalists and Second Prize winners. Previous Grand Prize and First Prize winners in the Junior Division may not compete again in that division; however, they may enter the Senior Division if they will have attained their 19th birthday by March 20, 2011. Previous Grand Prize and First Prize winners in the Senior Division are not eligible to compete further.

2) **Prizes** will be announced on ASTA's website www.astaweb.com and in the August edition of the ASTA journal.

3) State Competition

- A. All state chapters will hold a State Competition (live or recorded) which can be either a formal competition for awards or an informal screening of recordings. Each state will determine its own competition procedure.
- B. Students may choose to enter the State Competition of their state of residency or that in which they are studying to be eligible for the Semi-Final round of the National Competition. No entrant may enter in more than one state.
- C. For information regarding State Competitions, entrants should contact their ASTA State Competition Chairs.
- D. Each state chapter is encouraged to submit as many entrants as it considers qualified to compete in the National Semi-Final round. It is not necessary that all instrumental categories be represented only that those entrants entered be the most qualified.

4) National Semi-Finals (recorded)

- A. Entries MUST be submitted by the State Competition Chair.
- B. Entries must be POSTMARKED by November 12, 2010 to qualify for the National Finals.
- C. Entries MUST include a National Solo Competition Official Entry Form (enclosed in these Guidelines and also available on the ASTA website at www.astweb.com), proof of date of birth, student and/or teacher ASTA membership ID number, and the \$75 National entrance fee.
- D. Finalists will be selected and notified by January 16, 2011.
- E. Finalists must notify the National Office by February 1, 2011 of their acceptance to participate in the Finals in Kansas City, Kansas.

5) Final Competition- Live

- A. A panel of distinguished musicians will adjudicate the finals in Kansas City, Kansas, March 16-19, 2011. All decisions of this panel will be final. Prizes will be awarded only if there are outstanding entrants; the adjudicators are not obliged to award all prizes.
- B. Actual performance time for the Junior Division must fall between 12-15 minutes, including the required work. Actual performance time for the Senior Division must fall between 17-20 minutes including the required work. Contestants may submit a longer program and will be stopped without penalty when time limits run out.
- C. The Finalists selected by the national committee to participate in the finals of the National Solo Competition at the national conference, may not participate in the Alternative Styles Awards program or be part of a participating National Orchestra Festival group. This participation restriction is due to overlapping schedules which will cause disruption to the overall experience for all participants.

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C. **Further repertoire guidelines and considerations:**

1. The total amount of performance time is:
 - a. Junior Division 12-15 minutes including the required pieces and free choice.
 - b. Senior Division 17-20 minutes including the required pieces and free choice.
2. Time limits are suggestions. Recordings and performances under the minimum will not be disqualified. Nevertheless, it must be noted that it is in the entrants' interest to perform as much as possible to show themselves in the best possible light. Recordings or performances **exceeding the maximum time will be stopped, but entrants will not be penalized.** The cutting of lengthy piano tutti sections is strongly encouraged.
3. Complete works or complete single movements from works will be required of all entrants.
4. No composer may be represented more than once in each entrant's program. Entrants **may not** use required repertoire composers for free choice. Multiple movements of the same work are permitted but three composers **MUST** be represented.
5. All works (including sonatas) performed in the National Finals **must be played by memory.**