



The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.

A Historic Organization since 1919

Alfrelynn Roberts, President

A Century of Excellence. A future Unlimited

2026 Scholarship Competition- Woodwind and Brass

1. Competition Procedures

- 1.1. Complete the online application available at <https://www.nanm.org/scholarship>.
- 1.2. Choose to perform on **flute, oboe, English Horn, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, French horn, trombone, trumpet, tuba, euphonium.**
- 1.3. **Select only one piece for each category. The only requirement for selecting repertoire is adherence to the categories listed. Commercially published, self-published, and manuscript music are equally permissible.**
 - 1.3.1.1. **Category 1 — One piece by a Black Composer in the Romantic Period.**
 - 1.3.1.2. **Category 2 — One piece by a Black Composer in the 20th-21st Century style.**
 - 1.3.1.3. **Category 3 - One classical piece of contrasting styles from any period.**
 - 1.3.1.4. At least one work must be memorized.
- 1.4. Submit government-issued photo identification (e.g., driver's license, passport) and a non-refundable \$50 application fee.
- 1.5. The application, photo identification, and application fee are due by 11:59 pm Central Standard Time on January 5, 2026.
- 1.6. Incomplete applications are not accepted. Any missing element of 1.4 or 1.5 will disqualify an applicant.
- 1.7. Contestants are assigned to the branch closest to the address on the application unless an agreement has been made between a branch and the contestant.
- 1.8. The winner of the branch competition advances to the representative regional competition.
- 1.9. The winner of the regional competition advances to the national competition.

2. Contestant Rules

2.1. Eligibility

- 2.1.1. The age limit is 18 to 30 years old between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2026.
- 2.1.2. A first-place winner at the national level is ineligible to compete during the next competition for the same instrument category.

- 2.1.3. Full-time, public or private-school music teachers and college faculty as defined in academia (e.g., lecturers, adjunct, tenure-track, tenured professors) are ineligible to compete.
- 2.1.4. Contestants who, before the commencement of the competition or at any time during the competition, are under an exclusive contract with a management or recording agency are ineligible to compete.
- 2.2. Competition
 - 2.2.1. Contestants must supply the Competition Chair with three legal copies of each work to be performed.
 - 2.2.1.1. This is to ensure there is no copyright infringement.
 - 2.2.1.2. If a photocopy is used, there must be written proof from the publisher/distributor/copyright holder granting permission to photocopy, including self-published and manuscript music.
 - 2.2.1.3. Copies should be clean (no markings), double-sided, and placed in separate binders or digital folders.
 - 2.2.1.4. There will be one set for each adjudicator.
 - 2.2.1.5. It is the responsibility of the contestant to ensure that all pages are present.
 - 2.2.1.6. It is the responsibility of the contestant to identify selected movement(s) of the piece selected.
 - 2.2.1.7. Exceptions are made for the use of multiple original copies.
 - 2.2.1.8. Legal digital copies and folders are acceptable.
 - 2.2.1.9. Competition chairs determine the timeline for submitting these copies/folders. The timeline must be communicated to the contestant(s) at least one week in advance.
 - 2.2.2. Contestants must be available for all future competitions in the cycle toward the national competition.
 - 2.2.2.1. If the first-place winner becomes unavailable to compete, they forfeit their prize and standing, and the second-place winner becomes the representing contestant.
 - 2.2.2.2. All remaining contestants increase in rank.
 - 2.2.3. A contestant may change their repertoire **only** for the branch competition by communicating with the competition chair at least two weeks before the branch competition.
 - 2.2.3.1. Repertoire may not be changed in preparation for the regional or national competitions.
 - 2.2.4. A contestant's actual performance time, including transitions between pieces, must not exceed 30 minutes.
 - 2.2.5. Contestants must be in "**concert dress**" at the branch and regional levels.
 - 2.2.6. Attire for the **national competition is formal**, either a formal gown or tuxedo with formal shoes.

2 Competition Procedures

2.2 Logistics

- 2.2.6 It is the responsibility of the Competition Chair to secure the performance space and inform all contestants prior to the competition (preferably four weeks in advance).
- 2.2.7 The Competition Chair is required to provide the same amount of practice time for each contestant prior to the competition, preferably in the same room as the competition.
- 2.2.8 The Competition Chair is to meet with the adjudicators in one meeting prior to the competition and explain all the procedures.
- 2.2.9 The Competition Chair is to meet with the contestants in a separate meeting prior to the competition and explain all the procedures.
- 2.2.10 The Competition Chair is responsible for providing the adjudicators with copies of the music from each contestant.
 - 2.2.10.1 The Competition Chair must check the binders/folders to ensure all pages are present before the competition.
 - 2.2.10.2 If pages are missing, the Competition Chair should immediately contact the contestant.
 - 2.2.10.3 It is the responsibility of the contestant to provide the missing pages before the competition.
- 2.2.11 The Competition Chair is responsible for disseminating adjudication forms to the adjudicators and collecting the forms at the end of the competition.
 - 2.2.11.1 It is strongly encouraged that the Competition Chair explains the process of completing the adjudication forms and saving them.
 - 2.2.11.2 The Competition Chair, with at least one other person present, tallies the scores and confers with the adjudicators after the competition.
 - 2.2.11.3 The Competition Chair's role is to facilitate the discussion, not to cast a vote.
- 2.2.12 Contestant order is to be chosen at random.
 - 2.2.12.1 Contestants may choose the order of performance of their individual repertoire. The order must be communicated to the Competition Chair before the competition begins, not during the competition.
 - 2.2.12.2 If a contestant does not choose a preferred order of repertoire, then it shall be decided by the Competition Chair.
- 2.2.13 The biographies of contestants and adjudicators are not to be read aloud.
- 2.2.14 All contestants must be present for the full duration of the competition.
 - 2.2.14.1 Late contestants are ineligible to compete unless approval is obtained from the National Scholarship Chair.
- 2.2.15 Programs for the competition should state that the audience must hold applause until the end of the competition.
 - 2.2.15.1 There is no applause during a contestant's performance or at the end of each contestant's performance.
- 2.2.16 The Competition Chair announces the winners.
 - 2.2.16.1 Exceptions may be made by the Competition Chair.
- 2.2.17 The use of photography (flash or digital) is prohibited during the competition.
 - 2.2.17.1 All photography should take place after the competition.

2.3 Hearing

- 2.3.6 A hearing is when there is only one contestant for the branch and/or region.
- 2.3.7 All competition rules and guidelines still apply.
 - 2.3.7.1 Three adjudicators are required for a hearing.
- 2.3.8 If there is only one contestant for the region, the contestant, who meets the performance standard of the adjudicators, will automatically advance to the national level.
 - 2.3.8.1 If the contestant does not meet the performance standard of the adjudicators, there will be no representation from that specific branch and region

3.3 Eligibility of Adjudicators

- 2.3.9 Adjudicators are encouraged but not required to be members of NANM.
- 2.3.10 Any teacher or faculty member in the department, school, or college who has worked directly with a contestant in the field of identified completion is ineligible to serve as an adjudicator. Any conflict of interest must be made known by the adjudicator when the contestants have been selected.
- 2.3.11 Adjudicators who have worked with contestants in one- or two-day workshops or masterclasses are eligible.
- 2.3.12 Adjudicators should have expertise in the performance area of the competition.
- 2.3.13 It is strongly encouraged that adjudicators refrain from adjudicating multiple competitions, including different levels.

3.4 Rules for Adjudicators and Competition Chairpersons

- 2.3.14 Three adjudicators are required.
 - 2.3.14.1 A fourth adjudicator should be available in case of an emergency.
 - 2.3.14.2 Black adjudicators are highly encouraged.
- 2.3.15 The Scholarship Chair, in consultation with the Scholarship Committee, will select adjudicators.
- 2.3.16 The maximum score for each category is 30 points.
 - 2.3.16.1 The raw data for each adjudicator is added together to determine the winner.
- 2.3.17 Adjudicators are to write comments about the performance on the adjudication forms for each contestant.
 - 2.3.17.1 Comments are designed to help the contestant and not be punitive.
- 2.3.18 Adjudicators must sign their name on their adjudication form.
- 2.3.19 Adjudicators will convene following the performance of the last contestant to review the scores and discuss the final results.
 - 2.3.19.1 In the case of a tie vote, the adjudicators must discuss then make the final decision.
- 2.3.20 Only the approved adjudication form may be used in its unaltered form.

3.5 Awards- National Level

- 3.5.1.1 Announcement of the winners, at each level, is made following the adjudicators' decision.
- 3.5.1.2 All contestants of the national competition must participate in the masterclass at the national convention. Prize money is awarded after the masterclass.
- 3.5.1.3 Appropriate attire for the masterclass is concert dress. For example, see 2.2.6.
- 3.5.1.4 A contestant forfeits their prize money and competition rank if they are unavailable or unable to participate in the masterclass.
- 3.5.1.5 Award Amounts
 - First Place - \$7,000.00
 - Second Place-\$3,500.00
 - Encouragement Award- \$1, 000. 00

Branch Responsibilities

- 4.1 Branch assessments must have a postmark of **December 31, 2025** to qualify to hold a competition.
- 4.2 All local branch competitions must take place between February 1, 2026, and March 31, 2026, for a contestant to qualify for regional competitions.
- 4.3 Competition results and adjudication forms must be uploaded to the appropriate digital folder provided by the national scholarship chair within five (5) business days after the completion of the competition.
 - 4.3.1 No results or adjudication forms are to be emailed to the Regional and/or National Scholarship Chair.
- 4.4 A copy of each adjudication form must be emailed to the contestant within ten (10) business days of the competition.
- 4.5 Communication about a branch competition should begin with the Branch Competition Chair(s).
 - 4.5.1 The Regional Scholarship Chair is the next person with whom to communicate if a satisfactory decision is not reached.
 - 4.5.2 Communication with the National Scholarship Chair should be a final resort.

5 Region Responsibilities

- 5.2.1 All regional competitions must occur between April 1, 2026, and April 30, 2026, for a contestant to qualify for the national competition.
- 5.2.2 Competition results and adjudication forms must be uploaded to the appropriate digital folder within five (5) business days after the completion of the competition.
- 5.2.3 A copy of each adjudication form must be emailed to the contestant within ten (10) business days of the competition.
 - 5.2.3.1 It is the responsibility of the Regional Scholarship Chair to ensure that all results and adjudication forms are uploaded for branch competitions.
 - 5.2.3.2 No results or adjudication forms are to be emailed to the National Scholarship Chair.
- 5.3 Communication about a regional competition should begin with the Regional Scholarship Chair.

5.3.1 Communication with the National Scholarship Chair should be a final resort.