The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.
A Historic Organization since 1919
Alfrelynn Roberts, President
A Century of Excellence. A future Unlimited
Post Office Box 188
Matteson, IL 60643

2027 Scholarship Competition: Strings

1. Competition Procedures

Complete the online application available at https://www.nanm.org/scholarship.

1.2 Repertoire Guidelines

- The submitted piece must have been originally written to be performed as solo violin/viola/cello/bass.
- The contestant may submit either single or multiple movements of a single piece depending on length.

1.2.1 **Selecting Repertoire.** Select only one piece for each category. The only requirement to repertoire is adherence to the categories listed. Commercially published, self-published, and manuscript music are equally permissible.

Category 1 — A concert-level selection originally scored by a Black composer of any period.

Category 2 — At least one selection must be from any contrasting period including Baroque, Classical, Romantic or contemporary period.

1.2.2 All competition repertoires must be memorized.

1.2.3 Piano accompaniment is required for any work that has a collaborative piano part. All competitors are required to use the accompanist(s) provided by NANM for both the regional and national competition.

1.3 Submit government-issued photo identification (e.g. driver's license, passport) and a non-refundable $50 application fee. **The application, photo identification, and application fee are due by 11:59pm Central Standard Time on January 31, 2027.**

1.4 Incomplete applications are not accepted.

1.5 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.

1.6 The winner of the branch competition advances to the representative regional competition.

1.7 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, 2026 and July 1, 2027.

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-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.

2.1.5 Each contestant must submit a current biography

2.1.6 Each contestant must submit a High-Resolution Headshot

Minimum 300 dpi., the image should be clear, well-lit, and suitable for press use.

2.2 The Competition

2.2.1 Contestants must supply the Competition Chair with three legal copies of each work to be performed. This is to ensure there is no copyright infringement. Copies must be clean (no markings), double-sided, and placed in separate binders or digital folders.

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.

Legal digital copies and folders are acceptable.

Competition chairs determine the timeline for submitting these copies/folders.

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, he or she forfeits the prize and standing, and the second-place winner becomes the representing contestant.

2.2.3 A contestant may change his/her repertoire **only** for the branch competition by communicating with the competition chair at least two weeks before the branch competition.

2.2.4 A contestant's performance must not exceed 30 minutes, including transitions between pieces. Repeats may not be omitted.

2.2.5 Contestants must be in "concert dress" at the branch and regional levels. Appropriate concert dress consists of the following:

Dress

Sleeves are not required.

The dress must have a hem at the knee or below.

Suit
Full pants or dress suit
Business suit with shirt and tie
Sport coat and slacks with button-down shirt and tie
Shoes
Closed or open-toe shoes with a dress
Tie-up or slip-on shoe with a suit
No sandals, sneakers, or sports attire shoe

2.2.6 Attire for the national competition is formal, either a formal gown or tuxedo with formal shoes.
In the case where the Competition Chair is the Scholarship Chair, the consultation will be between the Competition Chair and the Branch President, Regional Director, National President, or Regional/National Scholarship Chair.

2.2.7 A contestant is disqualified if they do not adhere to any of the above rules.
Should a discrepancy arise after the completion of a competition and it is proven that a contestant did not adhere to any number of rules, any prize monies and standing associated with ranked winnings for the disqualified contestant are forfeited and remaining contestants increase in rank and associated prize monies.

3 Competition Procedures: Role of The Competition Chair

3.1 Logistics

3.1.1.1 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).

3.1.2 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.

3.1.3 The Competition Chair is to meet with the adjudicators in one meeting prior to the competition and explain all the procedures.

3.1.4 The Competition Chair is to meet with the contestants in a separate meeting prior to the competition and explain all the procedures.

3.1.5 The Competition Chair is responsible for providing the adjudicators with copies of the music from each contestant at least one week prior to the event.
The Competition Chair must check the binders/folders to ensure all pages are present before the competition. If pages are missing, the Competition Chair should immediately contact the contestant. It is the responsibility of the contestant to provide the missing pages before the competition.

3.1.6 The Competition Chair is responsible for disseminating adjudication forms to the adjudicators and collecting the forms at the end of the competition.

3.1.6.1 It is strongly encouraged that the Competition Chair explains the process of completing the adjudication forms and saving them.

3.1.6.2 The Competition Chair, with at least one other person present, tallies the scores and confers with the adjudicators after the competition.

The Competition Chair's role is to facilitate the discussion, not to cast a vote.

3.1.7 Contestants must choose the order of performance of their individual repertoire. The order must be communicated to the Competition Chair no later than two weeks before the competition begins, not during the competition.

3.1.8 The biographies of contestants and adjudicators are not to be read aloud.

3.1.9 All contestants must be present for the full duration of the competition.

3.1.10 Programs for the competition should state that the audience must hold applause until the end of the competition. There should be no applause during a contestant's performance or at the end of each contestant's performance.

3.1.11 The Competition Chair announces the winners. Exceptions may be made by the Competition Chair.

3.1.12 The use of photography (flash or digital) is prohibited during the competition. All photography should take place after the competition.

3.2 Branch and Regional Hearing

3.2.1 A hearing is when there is only one contestant for the branch or region.

3.2.2 All competition rules and guidelines still apply.

3.2.2.1.1 Three adjudicators are required for a hearing.

3.2.2.2 If the contestant does not meet the performance standard of the adjudicators, using the required Adjudicator Scoring Sheet, there will be no representation from that specific branch and region.

3.3 Eligibility of Adjudicators

3.2.3 Adjudicators are encouraged but not required to be members of NANM.

3.2.4 The teacher or faculty member in the department, school, or college of any contestant is ineligible. Any conflict of interest must be made known by the adjudicator when the contestants have been selected.

3.2.5 Adjudicators who have worked with contestants in one- or two-day workshops or masterclasses are eligible.

3.2.6 Adjudicators should have expertise in the performance area of the competition.

3.2.7 It is strongly encouraged that adjudicators refrain from adjudicating multiple competitions, including different levels.

3.4 Rules for Adjudicators and Competition Chairpersons

3.4.1 Three adjudicators are required.

A fourth adjudicator should be available in case of an emergency.

Diversity in the adjudication panel is highly encouraged.

3.4.2 The maximum score for each category is **60 points**.

The raw data for each adjudicator is added together to determine the winner.

3.4.3 Adjudicators are to write comments about the performance on the adjudication forms for each contestant. Comments are designed to help the contestant and not be punitive.

3.4.4 Adjudicators must sign their name on their adjudication form.

3.4.5 Adjudicators will convene following the performance of the last contestant to review the scores and deliberate determining the results.

3.4.5.1 In the case of a tie vote, the adjudicators must discuss then make the final decision.

3.4.6 Only the approved adjudication form may be used.

3.5 Awards

3.5.1 Announcement of the winners, at each level, is made following the adjudicators' decision.

3.5.2 All contestants of the national competition must participate in the masterclass at the national convention. Prize money is awarded after the masterclass.

3.5.3 Appropriate attire for the masterclass is concert dress OR business dress.

3.5.4 A contestant forfeits their prize money and competition rank if they are unavailable or unable to participate in the masterclass.

4 Branch Responsibilities

4.1 Branch assessments must have a postmark of **December 31, 2027, t**o qualify to hold a competition.

4.2 All local branch competitions must take place between February- March 31, 2027, for a contestant to qualify for regional competitions.

4.3 Competition results and adjudication forms must be uploaded to a digital folder provided by the scholarship chair within five (5) business days after the completion of the competition.

4.3.1 Branch chairs should forward all Adjudication forms to the regional scholarship chair. Regional chairs should retain all adjudication results except the Final Tally Sheet of the winner which should be forwarded to National Scholarship Chair.

A copy of each adjudication form must be emailed to the contestant within ten (10) business days of the competition.

4.4 Communication about a branch competition should begin with the Branch Competition Chair.

4.5 The Regional Scholarship Chair is the next person with whom to communicate if a satisfactory decision is not reached.

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

5 Region Responsibilities

5.1 All regional competitions must occur between April 1, 2027, and April 30, 2027, for a contestant to qualify for the national competition.

5.2 Competition results and adjudication forms must be uploaded to the appropriate digital folder within five (5) business days after the completion of the competition.

5.3 A copy of each adjudication form must be emailed to the contestant within ten (10) business days of the competition.

5.3.1 It is the responsibility of the Regional Scholarship Chair to ensure that all results and adjudication forms are uploaded for branch competitions.

5.3.2 No results or adjudication forms are to be emailed to the National Scholarship Chair.

5.4 Communication about a regional competition should begin with the Regional Scholarship Chair.

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

6 National Competition

The National Competition is under the leadership and guidance of the National Scholarship Chair with support from the National Scholarship Committee. Regional Winners will be provided with the same requirements as per the Regional Competition.

Questions

Contact: Dr. Walter McLean, National Scholarship Chair (walter.mclean@nanm.org).