

Twenty-ninth Annual
BERKSHIRE SYMPHONY STUDENT SOLOIST COMPETITION

Tuesday, February 14, 2017
Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, Bernhard Music Center

GUIDELINES
(Revised 2015)

Application Deadline: Monday, November 28, 2016

Date of Competition: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 @ 6:00 pm (Snow date February 21)

Award: Appearance as soloist with the Berkshire Symphony on the fourth regular season concert, Friday evening, April 21, 2017.

Eligibility:

- Williams College students who have completed at least one semester of instrumental or vocal study at Williams, and who are currently enrolled in MUS 281-288, partial credit lessons; 391, 392, 491 or 492 full credit lessons, or 493 performance thesis.
- Students who wish to compete must be recommended by their instrumental or vocal teacher and are expected to contribute to department music-making.
- Instrumentalists must also be members of at least one of the faculty-led large ensembles (e.g. Berkshire Symphony, Wind Ensemble, or Jazz Ensemble).
- Vocalists must be members of the Concert and/or Chamber Choir.
- Pianists must be participating in Chamber Music and/or Accompanying activities.
- Past winner(s) are eligible after a hiatus of one year (e.g., if selected in sophomore year, can apply again in senior year).

Please direct any question concerning eligibility to the department chair.

Application Process:

- 1) Seek approval from your teacher and get their signature on the application form as well as the signatures of your ensemble director and Mr. Feldman.
- 2) Consult with your teacher regarding an appropriate work from the works you are currently studying at Williams. Note: the work chosen must be performed from memory at the Competition and with the Berkshire Symphony.
- 3) Consult with Mr. Feldman and the Orchestra Manager of the Berkshire Symphony to make sure orchestral parts are available for the work you have selected and that the rental cost and orchestra size both fall within the Berkshire Symphony budget.
- 4) Submit your completed form, with the required written recommendation from your teacher, to the Music Department Chair. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- 5) Orchestra Manager will email receipt of applications by December 2, 2016.

Guidelines

The composition may be one movement from a concerto, a single-movement work, a concert or operatic aria, song cycle, etc. for soloist and orchestra. The recommended length of the selection is 15 minutes or less.

- Students are required to provide five (5) copies of the score or piano part. They must be delivered to Michelle Picard's office by Friday, February 10, 2017.
- Students must be prepared to perform the entire selection from memory. Each candidate will be allotted 10 minutes. The committee may ask to hear different sections of the piece in the event that the piece is longer than the allotted time.
- For those students who request it, a professional accompanist will be provided by the Department of Music for its two pre-arranged optional studio recitals and the competition. Contact Ed Lawrence to request an accompanist by December 5, 2016. **AFTER THIS DATE ACCOMPANISTS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.**
- Students must apply to enter the Competition to Marjorie Hirsch, Chair, Department of Music **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 28, 2016.** Applications are available in the display rack outside of the music office and on the Music Department website. **THE APPLICATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT AN ACCOMPANYING LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE INSTRUMENTAL OR VOCAL INSTRUCTOR**
- Winners will be chosen by a committee of professional musicians from outside the Williams community. The director Ronald Feldman and a non-voting member of the Music Department faculty will oversee the competitions.
- The Selection Committee reserves the right to choose one or more winners.
- Winners are expected to remain enrolled in the appropriate course and/or ensemble up to and including the semester of the performance, and are encouraged to continue their participation in the following years.
- If for any reason a soloist is unable to perform on the April 21st concert, he/she may compete in the following year with either the same or a different work.
- The competitions are open for public viewing. Students should dress accordingly.
- Judges comments will be made available to competitors upon request.

Optional Studio

For anyone interested in a run-through before the competition there will be two optional studio recitals: Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00pm and Sunday, February 12th at 3:00pm. Both studios will be held in Brooks Rogers.

The Berkshire Symphony is comprised of Williams College students, distinguished Artist Associates, and area professionals. Throughout the year, students and teachers work hand in hand in an environment that honors hard work and fosters respect. The programs each year expose the students to a broad range of symphonic repertoire. With musical selections spanning four centuries, and under the guidance of our excellent faculty, students experience ensemble playing on a level rarely offered in comparable educational settings.

~ Ronald Feldman, director