

Rotary District 5340 Youth Instrumental Music Competition Student Application Form

Please submit your application online here. * Indicates required question

Rotary District 5340 Youth Instrumental Music

Contest: Student Application 2026

The purpose of this Competition is to determine and recognize the student contestant demonstrating District 5340's greatest level of musical excellence in talent, training and love for music. Students may compete in either Classical or Contemporary categories.

This year we will replace Regional Semi Finals with four Instrument Finals, one for each of the following categories: 1) Classical strings; 2) Classical winds and brass; 3) Classical piano and percussion; 4) Contemporary / Popular / Jazz / Traditional. Two winners will advance from each final to the Winners Celebration Concert, one the best student aged 16 or over on 1/1/26 and one for the most promising student aged under 16 on 1/1/26.

Prize money will be awarded at each level of competition:

District 5340 Club Contests, Category Final Contests, and at the District 5340 Winners Celebration Concert where two **Grand Prizes of \$1,000 each will be awarded, one for each age group**. The applicants will be notified of dates and locations of the competition two weeks prior to the event. The Rotary Club Contests (First Level) are to be held in January or February 2026.

Rules

1. Open to high school age students (14 to 18 years of age) residing in the District 5340 region which includes San Diego and Imperial counties
2. Limited to instrumentalists only. Any musical instrument is allowed.
3. Contestant must be sponsored by a Rotary Club within District 5340. See dropdown list in the online application for participating Clubs.
4. All contestants under the age of 18 must have a parent's or guardian's signature.
5. Performance time must be between 3 and 8 minutes, with judging penalties for going over or under the allotted time.

6. Winner of any level (Club or Category) must be able to compete in the next level to be eligible for the prize money.
7. Contestant is responsible for travel expenses.
8. Contestant is responsible for any accompaniment, if needed. A maximum of one accompanist per student is permitted; the accompanist may be an adult or another student.
9. Must provide four (4) printed copies of music at each level of competition, for judges, or if no sheet music is available, provide a link to a YouTube recording of the piece to be performed. Digital copies may be uploaded via the application form instead of paper.
10. The decisions of the judges are final and are based on difficulty of the piece, command of the instrument, musical emotion, interpretation and stage presence.

Applications are due January 1, 2026. Upon receipt of this application, you will be contacted with next steps and instructions.
Questions? contact Janet White at cellojanet@gmail.com


* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. Student name *

3. Where did you hear about the competition? Enter name of Rotarian, teacher, or say friend, flyer, social media etc

4. Which Rotary Club Contest are you applying for? *

 Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Carlsbad Hi-Noon
- ☐ Coronado
- ☐ Del Mar
- ☐ Downtown San Diego
- ☐ Golden Triangle
- ☐ La Jolla Sunrise
- ☐ La Mesa
- ☐ Point Loma
- ☐ Rancho Bernardo Noon
- ☐ Rancho Bernardo Sunrise
- ☐ Rancho Santa Fe
- ☐ San Marcos
- ☐ I don't know, please match me with a Club

5. Date of Birth (note that prizes will be awarded for most promising student under 16 *
on 1/1/26 and for best student aged 16 or over)

Example: January 7, 2019

6. Student Home Address (e.g. 600 Fido St, Coronado CA 92118) *

7. Student cell phone number *

8. Student personal email address (not school email) *


9. Parent name *

10. Parent cell phone number *

11. Parent email *

12. Name of High School *

13. Instrument *

14. Category (note that second level of competition will be Instrument Category Finals in March so you will be competing against other students in the same category) *  Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Classical strings
- ☐ Classical winds and brass
- ☐ Classical piano and percussion
- ☐ Contemporary / Popular / Jazz / Traditional

15. Please provide a link to a short video or audio clip of yourself playing to help us understand your playing level and style. *

16. Anticipated musical selection: Name and Composer (between 3-8 minutes in length, selection can be changed if need be) *

17. Please upload a copy of the sheet music for the judges prior to the Club Competition and Category Final (if selected)

Files submitted:

18. If you do not have sheet music for your piece, please add a link here to a YouTube video of the piece (e.g. it can be performed by another artist) so that the judges can prepare

19. Please indicate if you require any special equipment, e.g. piano, power outlet, sound system

20. Please indicate if you have any accessibility needs

21. Please read and agree to the judging criteria below: *

Difficulty Level(20%)

Difficulty of the piece. Is it easy? Very technical? Does it evidence an accomplished level of training? Is the piece memorized? i.e. If the piece is easy, even if played perfectly, the performer may not get as high of a mark as a very difficult piece, which while not played perfectly, clearly took much more effort to prepare. **Command of**

the Instrument (20%)

How familiar is the performer with their instrument, and do they demonstrate a technical mastery of the instrument being played? This includes tone quality, command of lower and higher registers, note accuracy, attacks, articulations, rhythmic accuracy, breath control and intonation (with non-piano instruments) **Musical**

Emotion (20%)

This includes tone, phrasing, dynamics and expression of emotion.

Interpretation (20%)

While this aspect addresses the students' understanding of the composer's original intent, style, tempo, phrasing and dynamics, we will also consider leaving room for an artist's new interpretation, without marking the contestant down in the event of intentionally original, interesting and entertaining choices in their performance.

Stage Presence (20%)

Does the contestant have command of the stage during their performance? Is there a sense of rapport with the audience, overall presentation, and some appropriate showmanship? This can be a positive, but not necessarily required.


I have read and agree to the District 5340 Rotary Music Competition Judging Criteria. If I am selected, I agree to participate in the District 5340 Club Contests, which include preliminary Club contests, Category Final Contests, and the District 5340 Winners Celebration Concert. Absences from school will be communicated ahead of time, by student and/or parents.

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

⌵ Dropdown

22. I am willing to have my parent sign a media-release form for Rotary *  Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

23. If yes, please ask a parent to complete the Rotary International District 5340 Photo release form <https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050137/en-us/files/homepage/district-5340-photo-release-form/Rotary-District-5340-Photo-Release-Form.pdf> and upload an image here

Files submitted:

24. I have my parent's permission to participate in this competition *  Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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