

October 2025

Dear Music Educator,

The Summit Symphony Orchestra has been performing classical music for the greater Summit area for over 50 years. One of its purposes is to provide an opportunity for young artists to perform a concerto or other major work with a symphony orchestra.

The Summit Symphony Orchestra is now accepting applications for its Young Artists Competition. The Competition is open to all New Jersey resident high-school aged music students in Grades 9-12. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept piano soloists; auditions will be limited to orchestral instruments only. Three winners will be selected from this competition, and each will perform one movement of their audition piece with the Summit Symphony Orchestra at our Spring Concert on Sunday afternoon, May 17, 2026.

Interested applicants should complete the online application form, which will include a video submission. Specific video submission guidelines can be found on the application which is located on our website at www.summitsymphony.org/yac. Based on the online application submissions, **ten finalists** will be chosen for live auditions on Saturday, February 7, 2026.

Applicants should prepare and memorize at least two (2) movements of a concerto, or other major work, from the standard repertoire for a soloist and orchestra. Finalists are expected to bring his or her **own accompanist** to the live auditions. Please note that the winning applicants will perform **one movement** from the same piece performed from their audition at the May 2026 concert.

A panel of judges will select the winning soloists. Judges will score applicants on the following points:

- technical ability
- musicality
- intonation
- phrasing
- tone quality
- dynamics
- stage presence
- memorization

Applications are to be submitted online, along with a \$30.00 non-refundable application fee, no later than Monday, December 8, 2025. Payments can be made via Zelle, PayPal, or personal check. Specific payment information can be found on our website.

Your support is important to the success of our competition. We hope you will encourage qualified students to enter. This program provides the performance experience so necessary to a complete music education.

Our website has a copy of this letter and a flyer that can be posted at your school or shared with your students. Feel free to make copies of this letter and the flyer. These documents can be downloaded from the Summit Symphony website at:

www.summitsymphony.org/yac

If you require additional information, please contact me at yac@summitsymphony.org.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Blewett".

Margaret Blewett
Summit Symphony Orchestra

MB/klf