Messiah College, in cooperation with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, will host a concerto competition on the College’s campus, just 12 miles from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. All instrumentalists in grades 9–12, residing in the United States, are eligible.

Application Deadline
November 23, 2009

Semifinal Auditions
January 22, 2010

Final Auditions
January 23, 2010

Location
Climenhaga Fine Arts Center
Messiah College
Grantham, Pennsylvania
RISING STARS CONCERTO COMPETITION

How to Enter
1. Contestants must mail an audition recording (in compact disc form only) no later than November 23, 2009, to the competition chair, Richard Robinson, Messiah College, Department of Music, Box 3004, Grantham, PA 17027. Office phone: (717) 766-2511, Ext. 9-1192.
2. An entry fee of $25 (payable to Messiah College) must accompany the audition recording.
3. Absolutely NO recordings will be accepted after the November 23, 2009, deadline or without the entry fee of $25.
4. All entries must be accompanied by a completed concerto competition entry form, available on the website.
5. Entrants will receive notification by December 10, 2009, of their acceptance into the semifinal round of competition.

Rules and Application Form
1. A complete list of competition rules and a downloadable application form can be found at www.messiah.edu/music. Additional information may also be obtained by visiting www.harrisburgsymphony.org.
2. A fee of $125 must be paid directly to the accompanist at the time of pianist assignments in December.
3. No editing, splicing, or digital manipulation of the recording is permitted. This observance is a matter of personal honor and professional integrity.
4. No verbal announcements should occur on the recording. The name of the contestant, her/his address, and the name of the composition should appear on the CD label, as well as on the box that contains the recording media.

Competition
The Preliminary Competition
1. Contestants may choose any major concerto written for their instrument and orchestra, and must submit the first movement with cadenza in compact disc format.
2. Piano accompaniment is required.
3. No editing, splicing, or digital manipulation of the recording is permitted. This observance is a matter of personal honor and professional integrity.
4. No verbal announcements should occur on the recording. The name of the contestant, her/his address, and the name of the composition should appear on the CD label, as well as on the box that contains the recording media.

The Preliminary Competition
1. Contestants selected to perform in the live preliminary round must play the same concerto submitted on their audition recording and must be prepared to play all movements.
2. Semifinals will occur on the campus of Messiah College in Grantham, Pa., on Friday, January 22, 2010, beginning at noon, and will be open to the public.
3. On-campus accommodations may be made for all semifinalists, if desired.
4. Each participant should plan to bring his or her own accompanist if possible, but accompanists will be available if necessary.

The Regional Competition
1. Immediately following the semifinal round, a maximum of eight finalists will be selected to perform in the final round.
2. Contestants selected to perform in the live final round must play the same concerto submitted on their original audition recording.
3. The final round of competition will be adjudicated by five members of the Harrisburg Symphony and will be chaired by Dr. Steve Bass, director of Orchestral Studies.
4. The final round of competition will be adjudicated by five members of the Harrisburg Symphony and will be chaired by Maestro Stuart Malina, music director of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. A maximum of two winners from each of the four semifinal divisions will be chosen to compete in the final round. The decision of the judges is final.

Staff Accompanists
1. Contestants selected to perform in the preliminary round who need to hire an accompanist must request one no later than December 15, 2009. It may not be possible to accommodate requests made after this date.
2. A fee of $125 must be paid directly to the accompanist at the time of pianist assignments in December.
3. All contestants requesting an accompanist will receive a one-hour rehearsal prior to the semifinal round, on either the morning or the day prior.

Prizes
1. The overall champion of the final round will receive a $1,000 cash prize, as well as a Vollmer Music Scholarship to attend Messiah College, valued at over $50,000 (award contingent upon application and acceptance). In addition, the first place winner will be given consideration for a performance of his or her concerto with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra on the 2010–11 Masterworks Series, under the baton of Maestro Stuart Malina.
2. Runner-up prizes in the amount of $200 will be awarded for the best performance in each instrument classification.

Eligibility
1. Contestants must be enrolled in grades 9–12, and not be older than 19 years of age on the date of competition.
2. Entrants must reside in the U.S.
3. The competition is open to applicants playing any orchestral instrument, including piano and harp.

Judging
1. Preliminary judging will be done by active professionals specializing in each individual instrument, without any information about the contestant’s identity. Judging will be based entirely on the performances contained on the audition recording. There is no limit as to the number of semifinalists who may be selected on a particular instrument.
2. The semifinal round will be judged by faculty members of Messiah College and will be chaired by Dr. Steve Bass, director of Orchestral Studies. The semifinal round will consist of four divisions: strings, keyboard, brass and percussion, and woodwinds.
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