

Tri-County Concerts' 83rd Annual Youth Festival - 2026

Important Dates:

Monday, January 26: Pre-registration by teachers begins

Monday, February 23: Pre-registration by teachers ends

Monday, March 2: Registration by students begins

Monday, March 30: Student registration ends

Saturday, May 2: Auditions at West Chester University

Saturday, May 30: Youth Festival Winners' Recital at West Chester University

Tri-County Concerts is once again looking forward to presenting the best of the area's young musical talent in our **2026 Youth Festival Winners' Recital** on **Saturday, May 30**, at **7 p.m.** at West Chester University's Madeleine Adler Wing Theatre in the Swope Music Building.

Usually, 16 to 20 instrumentalists and vocalists are chosen to perform on the concert program. Participants may choose to audition as soloists or as part of a pre-formed chamber group. The Junior Division is for students in grades 6 to 8, and the Senior Division for those in grades 9 to 12.

Your role is of utmost importance for the students' participation in this prestigious Youth Festival. **Only those students whom you pre-register may apply.** The pre-registration form will be available on our [website](#) starting **January 26** through to **February 23**.

Pre-registration:

Teachers must submit the pre-registration form **online** no later than **Monday, February 23, 2026** (with student's name, home address including county, email, instrument, and grade, but not repertoire). **Teachers of an ensemble** should submit one pre-registration form with names and details of all the students in the group. The first student named will be the main contact for the group. (Please inform the other members of the ensemble that only the contact person will receive an invitation to register and that it is the responsibility of that contact person to inform the other members about the registration.) The pre-registration form will not be available after midnight on Monday, February 23. Teachers may pre-register as many students as they wish. You will receive an email from us confirming your pre-registration. If you do not get a confirmation, be sure to contact us.

Please read the 2026 Guidelines carefully. They are very thorough and should answer all your questions about the Youth Festival. Note new guideline, #12.

Students interested in participating in the auditions are expected to perform a work from the traditional classical repertoire or from an established 20th- or 21st-century classical composer. We appreciate your guidance and advice to your students regarding suitable music as described in the repertoire section of the **2026 Guidelines**. In general, it is recommended that students audition with repertoire they have mastered rather than with more difficult works that they

may not perform as proficiently. All students auditioning will receive written critiques from eminent adjudicators. The names of the private teachers or the ensemble coaches of those students selected for performance will appear in the program. Cash prizes will be awarded, and a video recording of the concert will be made.

All students must bring one clean (unmarked) copy of the music for the judges to consult during the audition. The original publisher's copy is preferable, but photocopies of public domain works are acceptable provided they meet the required standards. Photocopies must be legible, on double-sided pages in booklet form, not single sheets stapled or paper-clipped together. The music will be returned at the conclusion of the audition.

Pre-registered students will receive an **invitation to register by email**. Students will be able to **register online** beginning **Monday, March 2, 2026**. Students must submit the registration form, including what piece they will perform, and pay the non-refundable registration fee by **Monday, March 30, 2026**. The 2026 registration fees are **\$80 for soloists** and **\$45 for each member of an ensemble**. Registration is complete after payment is made.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Schmid and Eleanor James, Youth Festival Co-Directors
Carol Briselli, Assistant Director

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