

JOHN LEATHERWOOD

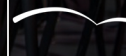
39th Annual

Concerto Competition 2026-2027

NORTHWEST FLORIDA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



NORTHWEST
FLORIDA
STATE COLLEGE



Enter to win cash awards from **\$750** to **\$2500** and an opportunity to perform as a guest artist with the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra at the Mattie Kelly Fine & Performing Arts Center

Key Dates & Deadlines

October 8, 2026

Firm Deadline!
Completed Application
Package Due

October 15, 2026

Finalists Selected and
Notified

November 7, 2026

Competition Finals at the
Mattie Kelly Arts Center

February 20, 2027

Winner(s) Perform with
the NFSO

ELIGIBLE ENTRANTS & AWARDS TO WINNERS:

College Division:

Undergraduate college students up to age 23

\$2500 Award

Senior Division:

Students in grades 9 through 12

\$1500 Award

Junior Division:

Students through grade 8

\$750 Award

Sponsored By:



See Concerto Competition Rules
and application form at:
www.nfsymphony.org or
www.MattieKellyArtsCenter.org

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lynne Fehrenbach
Director of Education and Outreach
Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra
(850) 687-6262 | fehrenbl@nwfsc.edu
Northwest Florida State College
100 College Boulevard
Niceville, FL 32578-1295

IMPORTANT DATES:

Oct. 8, 2026 - Application Package Due

Oct. 15, 2026 - Finalists Chosen

Nov. 7, 2026 - Competition Finals

Feb. 20, 2027 - Winners Perform with NFSO

39th Annual NFSO John Leatherwood *Concerto Competition*

Sponsored by the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra Guild
&
Northwest Florida State College

COMPETITION RULES:

- The competition is open to performers of orchestral instruments and keyboard, who (or if dependent, whose parents) maintain a legal residence in Northwest Florida in the following counties: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Nassau, Okaloosa, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton, Washington.
- All applicants must provide a YouTube link of one movement memorized of a concerto with piano accompaniment for the initial screening. **Applications must be postmarked by October 8, 2026.**
- Please consider musical selections carefully. The judges and music director reserve the right to disqualify a contestant on the basis of a selection that is not suitable for this competition. The most successful pieces have come from the standard repertoire. Consideration must be made of the availability and expense of orchestral scores for possible performance with the NFSO. Contact Competition Director, Lynne Fehrenbach (fehrenbl@nwfsc.edu) with questions regarding repertoire.
- All applicants will be notified by e-mail no later than **October 15, 2026** regarding their participation.
- Contestants may win only one time in any division.
- All finalists are required to provide their own accompanist for the live audition. If needed, we can provide you one for a fee, which the collaborative pianist will set.
- **All finalists are required to perform by memory for the application audition and live final audition.**
- Live auditions will be held **SATURDAY, November 7, 2026**, in the Tyler Recital Hall of the Mattie Kelly Fine & Performance Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd., Niceville, Florida.
- Winner(s) will perform, at the Music Director's discretion, with the NFSO on **February 20, 2027.**
- **The decision of the judges are FINAL. Comments will not be distributed.**
- The 39th Annual Concerto Competition is divided into three divisions: Junior Division (through 8th grade), Senior Division (grades 9-12), and College Division (only college undergraduates who are 23 years or younger at the date of the performance - **February 20, 2027** and enrolled as a full-time student). **The competition makes awards in the amounts of \$750 for the Junior Division, \$1500 for Senior Division, \$2500 for College Division.** There may or may not be a winner in each division. There will be no ties within any division. The awards will be presented to winner(s) on **February 20, 2027.**

Application packets must be postmarked by October 8, 2026, and must include the following:

- Completed application form
- Non-refundable fee of \$50 made out to NFSO Guild
- Link to YouTube video recording. Please write clearly and test your link before sending
- Entrants may also complete application and payment online at www.mattiekellyartscenter.org/home-2/northwest-florida-symphony-orchestra/

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR APPLICATION FORM TO FILL OUT

SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:

Lynne Fehrenbach, Competition Director

Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra

Northwest Florida State College

100 College Boulevard

Niceville, FL 32578-1295

CONTACT:

Lynne Fehrenbach

Competition Director

850-687-6262

fehrenbl@nwfsc.edu

SEE BACK OF PAGE FOR APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION FORM

39TH ANNUAL NFSO JOHN LEATHERWOOD CONCERTO COMPETITION (2026-2027)

Sponsored by the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra Guild
&
Northwest Florida State College

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant's Name	Birth Date	Grade Level
Address	City	County
Phone Number	State	Zip Code
E-mail Address	Instrument	
Composer	Movement(s)	Title of Work, including Key and Opus Number <i>(if applicable)</i>
Signature of Applicant <i>(Guardian if under 18 years old)</i>	Link to YouTube Video <i>(Please write clearly)</i>	

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

School	Name of Music Instructor		
Address	City	State	Zip Code
Instructor's Phone	Instructor's E-mail Address		
Arrival Date	Recieved by	Returned by	