



ROCHESTER SYMPHONY

CHIA-HSUAN LIN | MUSIC DIRECTOR

Young Artist Showcase 2025/26

Young Artist Showcase (previously *Playing with the Pros*) is an audition-based program that creates an opportunity for advanced music students to perform a solo with the Rochester Symphony. Students who are accepted into the program will prepare a movement from a concerto for their performance with coachings from Rochester Symphony Music Director Dr. Chia-Hsuan Lin and Concertmaster Alexandra Bartoi. Students will rehearse with the orchestra on Saturday and then perform a public concert on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

The audition is open to advanced pre-college music students upon recommendation of their private teacher. Students will be selected based on strong technical skill and musicianship. Each application and video will be reviewed to determine participation in the program. Participants will be notified and announced the week of October 31st.

Young Artist Showcase participants will have the opportunity to advance their playing and performance skills through the following:

- Individual coaching sessions with the Music Director and Concertmaster*
- Developing the ability to interact with conductor and orchestra
- Observing communication between professional musicians
- Playing as soloist with piano accompaniment and with a full orchestra

**Please review the program schedule on the next page to ensure you are able to participate in all activities.*

To apply, please submit the following by Friday, October 10th, 2025:

- Application Form (Applications open Friday, September 19th, 2025)
- Application Fee \$30
 - *Can be paid online or by check sent to the Symphony office: 1530 Greenview Dr SW, Suite 120, Rochester, MN 55902; check made out to Rochester Symphony.*
- Audition Video
 - *Record a complete piece for solo instrument and orchestra, or a movement from a concerto. Piano accompaniment is encouraged, but not required. A recent (within 3 months) live recital recording is acceptable. Upload your video to YouTube and include the video link in the application form. The video must either be made public or unlisted in order for the application to be complete. The video should not exceed 30 minutes. Please see the next page to view tips on recording an audition video.*
- Recommendation Letter
 - *A letter of recommendation from your private teacher or school music teacher, which should be submitted directly to Erin Haefner, Director of Operations and Education, at erinh@rochestersymphony.org.*

Program registration and participation requirements for accepted students:

- Participation fee of \$135
 - *Scholarships are available to support students who may need assistance with the participation fee. Please contact Erin Haefner (email on previous page) to learn more.*
- Commitment to participate in all preparatory and performance activities on the following dates:

October 31, 2025	Participation fee due (upon notification of acceptance)
December 15-19, 2025	Coaching session with Dr. Lin and Concertmaster Bartoi to be scheduled via signup.
January 29, 2026	7pm recital with piano accompaniment at Charter House (<i>optional</i>)
January 31, 2026	Dress rehearsal with orchestra
February 1, 2026	Performance with orchestra

Tips for Making a Successful Audition Video:

- Place the camera directly in front of you or at a slight angle on a tripod or steady surface. For strings and woodwinds, frame from the midsection up; for brass or larger instruments, please make sure full instrument is visible. The frame should capture all of your movements.
- A neutral background keeps the focus on your playing. Avoid clutter and other visible distractions.
- Wear audition appropriate attire. Solid colors work best; avoid logos, busy patterns, or anything too flashy.
- Tune your instrument carefully and play through your entire piece without stopping.
- Trim the beginning and end of the video to remove any unnecessary pauses, but do not alter the performance itself.