



Merced Symphony Association and Merced College Announce the 2016-17 Annual MSA Youth Auditions

Dear Music Teacher:

The 2016-2017 Season will be our 59th consecutive year of bringing exceptional classical music to the Merced community. Enclosed is an application for the Merced Symphony Youth Auditions which are being co-sponsored this year with Merced College. We hope you will encourage any students you feel are capable to enter the competition. Also, feel free to copy the application and share it with other music teachers and students.

Here are the qualifications:

- Contestants must be able to perform proficiently on a musical instrument or in voice.
- Concerto performed should be from standard concert repertoire.
- Vocal competition should include two contrasting selections.

THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 pm at Merced College. Students will report at least 15 minutes ahead of their assigned time to Music Room 1 which is located in the building behind the Merced College Theater. There are practice rooms available and a place for parents to wait during the auditions. The schedule for the auditions will be determined by the number of applicants and the distance they are travelling and will be given the week preceding the auditions.

- Contestants must be under the age of 21 as of January 1, 2017.
- Contestants must provide three (3) copies of the music to be performed for the judges.
- At the discretion of the Music Director, the winner(s) may be invited to perform with the at either one of the four Children's Concerts or with the Merced Symphony Orchestra at the Spring Concert and are expected to do so, if asked. There is no guarantee of a public performance.
- Cash awards are given to the winner(s). Usually this is--1st Place: \$100/2nd Place: \$75/3rd Place: \$50.
- Contestants are expected to provide their own accompanist. A piano or keyboard will be available for the accompanist.
- A \$20 entry fee made payable to the Merced Symphony Association (MSA) must accompany the completed application.
- Deadline for applications is **September 23, 2016**.
- Mail entry form and fee to the Merced Symphony, P. O. Box 894, Merced 95341-0894
- If you have questions, please call the Symphony Office, 383-3277 to leave a message or call MSA President, Judy Edwina Smith, 209-777-5345 or e-mail sierratrekker@comcast.net.

Thank you for all you do for young people and music. We look forward to auditioning some of your proficient students. We appreciate your support of talented musicians! I am happy to report that several audition winners have played professionally and one has achieved world-wide renown. The important thing is we helped them on their way.

Sincerely,

Judy Edwina Smith, President
Merced Symphony Board

John Albano, Dean
Fine & Performing Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at
Merced College