

LAWRENCE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONCERTO COMPETITION

2026 – 2027

Competition Date: November 1, 1pm, Memorial Chapel
Nominations Due: October 29th by Noon to Claire Schmidt, Conservatory Office
Performance Date with the LSO: March 5, 2027

This competition is offered annually by the LSO and is open to any student enrolled in applied music study at Lawrence University who has been nominated in writing by their studio teacher. The top one or two winners are to perform with the Lawrence Symphony Orchestra. A maximum of two winners may be selected and judges also reserve the right to pick no winner.

- Each applied department (strings, keyboard, voice, winds, brass/percussion) will organize its own individual **preliminary competition/hearing** to determine which maximum three students will represent their department in the final LSO Concerto Competition. The final competition will include a maximum of 15 participants representing the 5 applied departments.
- **One movement from a concerto** or an equivalently substantial work with orchestra is admissible. You may audition with **complete concertos** if the total length **does not exceed 25 minutes**. **Memorization is required** in appropriate situations where that would be the normal expectation. The department chair and studio teachers are responsible for ensuring availability of the work. Additionally, the panel/director reserves the right to modify the winners' selection for the performance with the orchestra.
- **Competition audition slots** will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length (no exceptions). The student participant will organize his or her own audition excerpts that best represent the overall performance within the 15-minute time limit. The audition must include excerpts from every section in the movement or from each movement where applicable. The faculty judges will not interrupt a student's predetermined 15-minute audition presentation. All cadenzas must be performed.
- Competitors must provide their **own accompanist** and must submit **their own copy of the full score for the judges**.
- Competitors are *not* disqualified from competing in future LSO Concerto Competitions; however, winners may not compete again in the future.
- The judging panel will consist of no fewer than 3 and no more than 8 judges and will consist of the Dean of the Conservatory and/or the Associate Dean of the Conservatory, the Director of Orchestral Studies, and one member of each of the 5 applied departments. The inclusion of an outside guest judge is at the discretion of the Director of Orchestral Studies and the Dean of the Conservatory. It is the responsibility of the department chairs to ensure a member of their department is present on the judging panel. A department may forfeit its representative if there is no student competing from the department.