

53<sup>rd</sup> William C. Byrd  
**Young Artist Competition**

*Strings*

**Saturday, March 1, 2025**

**Auditions 8am ~ 5pm (may vary)**

**Finals 7pm**

**FIM Dort Music Center**

**Flint, Michigan**

**Sponsored by the St. Cecilia Society,  
an Affiliate of the Flint Institute of Music**

**First Prize - \$6,000 and a performance**

**with the Flint Symphony Orchestra**

**Second Prize - \$2,500**

**Plus Three \$1,000 Finalist Prizes**



**Eligibility: 32 and younger**

**Application Deadline: January 15, 2025**

**Application special by December 16, 2024**

**[www.ByrdArtists.com](http://www.ByrdArtists.com)**



# 53rd WILLIAM C. BYRD YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Our mission is to provide an annual competition with performance opportunities designed to help launch musical careers.

## Eligibility

- A. The Competition is international in scope and accepts up to 30 musicians. Instrumentalists cannot be older than 32, and vocalists cannot be older than 35 on the day of the Competition. Contestants cannot have a manager or agent.
- B. Each contestant must submit a completed application form with the following required enclosures by Wednesday, January 15, 2025 (Early Registration postmarked by December 16, 2024):
  1. Completed application and housing form.
  2. Two letters of recommendation which may be sent electronically.
  3. A résumé and a brief biography (90 to 110 words), highlighting history of study, honors, solo performances, reviews and programs.
  4. One color photo of yourself suitable for music publication.
  5. **A complete recording such as all concerto movements**, on a DVD, CD or flash drive of the music you plan to perform in the competition (no mp3 recordings, please). The selection should be a minimum 15 minutes. Put the title(s) and name of composer on your recording, but do NOT add any information to your recording that would identify you by name or photo.  
**Your music selection must be written for your instrument and full orchestra.** Your recording can have piano or orchestra accompaniment, but only piano accompaniment will be used during the competition. Your recording will be used by a preliminary judge who will limit the field to 30 contestants, and your recording will not be returned to you.
  6. A check or money order payable to the St. Cecilia Society for the registration fee of \$75us and an additional fee of \$200us (\$275us total) if you wish to use the St. Cecilia Society accompanist. (Applicants not accepted into the competition will have their \$200 and music score returned.) The \$200 entitles the contestant to an hour practice session with the accompanist the day before the competition. Send a clean, store purchased or gently used copy of your music with the application if you plan to use the St. Cecilia Society accompanist. Securing an accompanist cannot be guaranteed after February 4 of the competition year.
- C. A check or money order payable to the St. Cecilia Society for the \$75.00us registration fee (\$60.00us for early registration). Add \$200.00us if you plan to use a St. Cecilia accompanist.

For more information, contact Mrs. Carol Hinterman, Chairman at 810-964-9399 or [chairman@byrdartists.com](mailto:chairman@byrdartists.com).

- D. Contestants will be notified of the results of the preliminary round by the first week of February.

## Judges

A preliminary judge limits the field of contestants to not more than 30 after reviewing the recorded performances. A jury of three distinguished musicians will serve as judges at the auditions and final competition. The decision of the judges is final. If a contestant has studied with or had close professional or personal ties with a judge, the judge will be requested to recuse himself/herself for that contestant, and the scores from the other two judges will be averaged to provide a third score.

## Auditions

- A. Auditions will be held throughout the day **Saturday, March 1, 2025** beginning at 8:00 a.m (may vary). Contestants shall be known to the judges only by number. Bring a store purchased score or library copy for the judges to use during the audition. The music will be returned to you following your audition. Auditions are open to the public.
- B. Audition times and contestant numbers will be sent with the acceptance letters.
- C. **Contestants must memorize and be prepared to perform all their selected music (e.g. a complete concerto)**
- D. Five Finalists will be selected at the close of the auditions. The finals will be held the same day beginning at 7:00 p.m. and open to the public at no cost. Finalists will be introduced by name to the judges and audience at the conclusion of the evening program.
- E. The finals are presented as a formal program. Contestants selected into the finals are required to wear appropriate attire for the evening presentation and be prepared to perform their entire music selection.

## Prizes\*

- A. The First Place Winner will receive \$6,000 and must sign a contract to appear with the Flint Symphony Orchestra, a professional per-service orchestra. \$3,000 will be presented by the St. Cecilia Society immediately after the competition. The remaining \$3,000 will be awarded after the performance with the Flint Symphony Orchestra. Failure to fulfill this engagement will result in forfeiture of the \$3,000. A First Place Winner is not eligible to return for future competitions.
- B. A Second Prize of \$2,500 will be awarded. Should the First Place Winner be unable to perform with the orchestra, the Second Place Winner will be expected to fulfill this engagement, and will be paid \$3,000 for this performance.
- C. The other three finalists will each receive \$1,000.

\* Please note: All prizewinners must complete appropriate IRS (Internal Revenue Service) forms to receive disbursement of prize monies. For details, see [www.ByrdArtists.com](http://www.ByrdArtists.com).

## General Information

- A. Lunch (11 a.m.–2 p.m.) and dinner (5:30 p.m.) will be served free of charge to all contestants and accompanists. Finalists will be announced at the dinner.
- B. Housing by volunteers in the community will be available. Requests for housing should be made with the attached application.
- C. For those who wish to book a hotel room, reservations may be made with the Holiday Inn Express of Flint (810.238.7744) located two blocks from the Dort Music Center.
- D. The competition check-in desk will be open from noon to 8:15pm on Friday, February 28, 2025 and at 7:00am on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Times may vary according to number of contestants. Practice rooms will be assigned at the check-in desk.
- E. In the event that competition staff cannot be contacted, the Flint Institute of Music security office will receive urgent messages at 810.238.1350 ext 7.

**William C. Byrd Young Artist Competition  
Strings – March 1, 2025 Application Form  
www.byrdartists.com**

Please print clearly or type

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_  
given name family name

Date of birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
Mo. Day Year

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt./Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Music selection to be performed:

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_ Length in minutes: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Guardian Signature for Minors \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like free housing with a family? (Meals and local transportation are included.) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Housing requests must be made at least 21 days before the competition. Host families are non-smoking.

When you submit your application, please enclose the following:

- Application form, completed and signed **(Must be received by the Byrd Committee by January 15, 2025) \$75us (Early registration postmarked by December 16, 2024, \$60.00us)**
- A DVD or CD or flash drive recording of your music selection(s) with the name of the music and the composer. (see the Eligibility rules) **(Package flash drives well.)**
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Brief biography about you (90 to 110 words) written in the third person (Please include where you are from, how old you are, where you have studied music, and any prizes or honors you have received.)
- Proof of birth date such as a copy of a driver's license, passport or birth certificate
- Two letters of recommendation (may be sent separately and by email to chairman@ByrdArtists.com)
- Money order or check for the \$75.00us application fee (\$275.00us if using an accompanist provided by the St. Cecilia Society) made payable to the *St. Cecilia Society* (early entry \$60.00us plus accompanist fee if applicable)
- New or gently used music score* if using the St. Cecilia Society accompanist (Please put your name on this music score since it will be returned to you.)
- Your color photo suitable for publication
- Mail your application materials to Byrd Competition, c/o Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48503.

Are you bringing an accompanist? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If you are bringing an accompanist, will your accompanist need housing? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, accompanist's name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_

List special needs such as food or pet allergies, etc. for you or your accompanist.  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not wish to stay with a family, the **Holiday Inn Express**, 1150 Robert T. Longway Blvd., Flint (810-238-7744) is located two blocks from the Flint Institute of Music.

WILLIAM C. BYRD, artistic director and conductor of the Flint Symphony Orchestra, was an exceptionally talented young man with vision and extraordinary leadership skills. Conducting and composing were his primary interests, but he had a unique devotion to the artistic growth and development of young musicians. He worked with boundless enthusiasm and accomplished many of his ambitious goals before his sudden death in 1974. The St. Cecilia Society in cooperation with the Flint Institute of Music takes great pride in presenting this competition in his memory.



The competition consists of four categories, rotating annually:  
Strings - 2025; Winds & Brass 2026; Voice - 2027;  
Piano - 2028;

The strings competition will be held  
**Saturday, March 1, 2025** at: Dort Music Center  
1025 East Kearsley Street, Flint, MI 48503  
**Chairman:** Mrs. Carol S. Hinterman  
810.793.0538 • cell 810.964.9399  
chairman@byrdartists.com

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# Strings

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Finals 7pm



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St. Cecilia Society  
Flint, Michigan

The St. Cecilia Society was established in 1890 for the betterment of the performing arts in the Flint community. The 12 founders aspired to establish a local symphony orchestra and a place for children to study the performing arts. Over the years, the organization helped the community achieve these goals.

The St. Cecilia members raised funds and brought the Detroit Philharmonic Club to Flint as encouragement to starting a local orchestra. Originally an amateur orchestra, The Flint Symphony Orchestra was established in 1917 and became a professional orchestra around 1970 under the guidance of William C. Byrd, the first professional conductor.

A violinist and pianist, Nellie Bates Dort was the first president of the St. Cecilia Society. Her husband, J. Dallas Dort was a General Motors auto pioneer and an accomplished cellist who shared Nellie's love for music. Following Nellie's death (1900), Dort married Marcia Webb, a music teacher and organist. It was very fitting that Mr. Dort established the Community Music School in 1917 which is now entitled the Flint School of Performing Arts.

With the original goals met, the St. Cecilia Society, with the encouragement of Maestro William C. Byrd, started the Young Artist Competition in 1971. A guest artist performance with the Flint Symphony was established as part of the prize. Following the untimely passing of Mr. Byrd, the St. Cecilia Society renamed the competition in his memory.

The St. Cecilia Society also supports a student group, Jr. St. Cecilia Musicalé. In addition, the group sponsors an annual monetary awards program for local music students.

The St. Cecilia Society has monthly programs (October through May) open to the public that feature performing members.