



High School Orchestra of Distinction Application Guidelines

Purpose:

To provide recognition, encouragement, and support to outstanding and promising high school orchestras in Central Florida.

Qualified Applicants

- a. Public and private high schools with an active orchestra program in Orange, Seminole, or Osceola County.
- b. Schools that employ at least one orchestra director who is a full-time employee (even if director teaches coursework outside of orchestra).
- c. Award recipients of the *High School Orchestra of Distinction* in the 2017-2018 year will be eligible to re-apply in the 2020-2021 school year.
- d. Award recipients of the *High School Orchestra in the Wings* in the 2017-2018 year will be eligible to re-apply in the 2018-2019 school year.

High School Orchestra of Distinction Process

- 1) **Written applications (via Survey Monkey)** are due on **Friday, September 29, 2017**. Written applications must be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSOD2017>.
- 2) All applicants will also be asked to provide an anonymous sound sample recording. Please see the requirements for the sound sample recording below. Sound recordings must be completed no later than **October 27, 2017**.
- 3) Orchestras selected for continued consideration will be notified by the OPO Director of Education by **November 10, 2017**.
- 4) Up to 3 representatives from the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra will adjudicate finalists in December 2017.
- 5) Orchestras selected for recognition will be notified by **February 1, 2018** and recognized at an Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra concert on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Required Materials

- 1) Written Application must be completed and submitted by Friday, September 29, 2017. If unable to answer a question, please provide an explanation.
- 2) **Application Fee (OCPS excluded):** \$75/school. Please make check payable to the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra; other forms of payment are acceptable. Please contact Dr. Leia Barrett, OPO Director of Education, at 407.896.6700, ext. 232 or LBarrett@orlandophil.org to coordinate payment. Payment must be received by **October 6, 2017** in order to qualify for the program.



3) Sound Samples

All schools must submit an anonymous sound sample for consideration by adjudicators. Sound samples must:

- Include 2 contrasting works.
- In total, recordings must not exceed 15 minutes.
- The recording must be anonymous, with no talking or introduction.
- Contrasting works should be provided as different tracks, preferably in a .wav or .mp3 format.
- Samples must be unedited.
- Schools are responsible for recording their own sound samples.
- Upon successful completion of Written Application, the Director of Education will provide you with a link to upload materials.
- Sound samples are due **October 27, 2017**.
- If you experience any issues, please contact Leia Barrett at LBarrett@orlandophil.org or 407.896.6700, ext. 232.

4) Finalists: Live Performance Round

- a. Adjudicators will review the Written Applications and Sound Samples and select up to 5 finalists.
- b. Adjudicators will visit the finalist's schools for a final judging in November and December, with judging to be completed by **December 22, 2017**.
- c. Schools can determine whether adjudicators attend a rehearsal during the day or an evening concert. If attending a holiday concert, please specify when orchestra will be performing. **Please note:** it is in the best interest of the orchestra to perform solo orchestra works that showcase the orchestra's abilities for adjudicators. Many holiday concert "pop" selections do not showcase orchestras to their fullest ability, so plan accordingly to ensure the adjudicators have a realistic picture of your orchestra's abilities.

5) Finalist Selection

- a. Based on the assessment process, the Adjudication Panel will select the top ranked *Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra High School Orchestra of Distinction* recipient.
- b. Based on the assessment process, the Adjudication Panel will select the *Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra High School Orchestra in the Wings* recipient.
- c. The 2017 *High School Orchestra of Distinction* and 2017 *High School in the Wings* schools will be notified by February 1, 2018.
- d. All applicant schools will receive the judges' written comments after February 1st.



Participant Benefits

All applicant orchestras will receive:

- a. Invitations to selected Philharmonic rehearsals during the 2017-2018 season.
- b. A participation award certificate.
- c. Comments from the adjudication panel.

Semi-Finalists will receive above plus:

- a. Mention in a Philharmonic press release, plus additional adjudication comments
- b. A special ticket offer for your students and faculty for the final Classics Series concert on April 7.

High School Orchestra of Distinction and *High School Orchestra in the Wings* recipients will receive:

- c. Sectional or master class from the Orlando Philharmonic.
- d. Ten tickets to the Philharmonic's April 7 Classics concert conducted by Maestro Eric Jacobsen.
- b. Three vouchers to two Super Series concerts in the 2017-2018 season for orchestra director.
- c. A special presentation on stage at the Philharmonic's April 8 Classics concert.
- d. A special backstage "meet and greet" with Maestro Eric Jacobsen.
- e. An award for display at their school.
- f. Special chamber music performance opportunities at OPO events.
- g. The High School Orchestra in the Wings will have admission fees waived for the next season.

OPO 2017 High School Orchestra of Distinction recipients will be eligible for re-application during the 2019-2020 school year. *OPO 2017 High School Orchestra in the Wings* recipients will be eligible for re-application during the 2017-2018 school year.