



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Western University Maritsa Brookes Concerto Competition 2025-2026

*This award was made possible through the generous donation
by Maritsa Brookes to Foundation Western.*

Important Dates

Deadline to submit online application	January 5, 2026
Deadline to submit video recording in online application (voice, piano)	January 5, 2026
Audition (woodwinds, brass, percussion)	January 6, 2026
Audition (strings)	January 7, 2026
Final Round	January 10, 2026

Eligibility

Candidates must be full-time registered students in the DWFOM for 2025-2026; currently registered in applied music; and intend to be registered students during 2026-2027. DMA students are not eligible. This competition is open to all instruments.

Selection Process and Repertoire

The Concerto Competition consists of a preliminary round and a final round. Music should be selected from the concerto repertoire, i.e. solo instrument and orchestra, or solo voice and orchestra. Repertoire should be selected in consultation with the applied studio professor and the Symphony Orchestra director. Candidates must contact the Symphony Orchestra director via email to confirm that their repertoire selection is approved before submitting their online application. Failure to consult the Symphony Orchestra director on the proposed repertoire may result in a change of repertoire for the winner(s) at the time of performance.

1. Preliminary Round

Students must complete the online application and submit it no later than January 5, 2026, at 12 pm. The Academic Departments & Student Services Office (TC 210) is available to assist students throughout the process. The divisional requirements for the preliminary round are as follows:

Divisions	Voice	Piano	Strings	Woodwinds/Brass/Percussion
Format	YouTube video recording	YouTube video recording	Live audition	Live audition
Date	Due January 5, 2026, by 12 p.m., provide a link to your YouTube video in the online application	Due January 5, 2026, by 12 p.m., provide a link to your YouTube video in the online application	January 7, 2026, (6 p.m.- 8 p.m.), sign up no later than 12 p.m. on January 5, 2026, on the online application (link will be sent by email)	January 6, 2026, (6 p.m.- 8 p.m.), sign up no later than 12 p.m. on January 5, 2026, in the online application (link will be sent by email)
Repertoire (length)	10 minutes of candidate's choice	10 minutes of candidate's choice	10 minutes of candidate's choice	10 minutes of candidate's choice
Memory	Required	Required	Required	Not required

Voice and Piano – Video Recording

Dates have been reserved in von Kuster Hall for voice and piano applicants to book a recording time for their preliminary round (at no cost for the applicant). Time slots are available on a first come first serve basis. A link will be emailed to access an online booking system for these recording sessions. **The deadline to sign up for a recording session is November 10, 2025, at 12 pm.**

Recording Session Dates:

November 11, 2025 (12:00-3:00 pm)

November 13, 2025 (12:00-3:00 pm)

November 18, 2025 (2:00-5:00 pm)

Applicants can arrange to produce their own recordings in a different venue using their own equipment. It is strongly recommended that applicants take advantage of the opportunity to use the professional equipment and venue offered in von Kuster Hall on the above dates.

From the recordings the jurors will select a maximum of four (4) students, from each of the four divisions, who will advance to the final round.

Strings, Woodwinds/Brass/Percussion – Live Audition

The preliminary round for strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion will consist of a live audition.

Woodwinds, brass and percussion, the live audition will take place January 6, 2026. The live audition for Strings will take place on January 7, 2026.

A link will be emailed to access an online booking system for these auditions. Bookings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. **The deadline for signing up for an audition is January 5, 2026, at 12pm.**

2. Final Round

The Final Round will take place on **Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.** in von Kuster Hall. Each finalist will play no longer than 10 minutes of their choice from their selected work. The jurors for the Final Round will be the MPS Department Chair and four external judges.

Winners' Information

The winners of the Western University Maritsa Brookes Concerto Competition 2025-2026 will be announced in the days following the final round.

First place winner will be invited to perform their selected work in the 2026-2027 academic year with the Western University Symphony Orchestra. The winner must be registered as a student in the Don Wright Faculty of Music in 2025-2026 and must also intend to be a registered student during 2026-2027. In addition, the winner will receive a monetary award of \$2,000 to be received in the fall, following the competition.

Second place winner will receive an honourable mention as runner-up, receive a monetary award of \$1,500, and may be offered performance or rehearsal opportunities with a Western University ensemble in the 2026-2027 academic year.

Third place winner will receive an honourable mention as runner-up, receive a monetary award of \$1,000, and may be offered performance or rehearsal opportunities with a Western University ensemble in the 2026-2027 academic year.

Rules and Conditions

1. Eligible pieces are all works composed for solo instrument and orchestra, or solo voice and orchestra, with performance materials available, and instrumentation no larger than that of the Western University Symphony Orchestra.
2. No operatic repertoire for voice applicants.
3. Selections must be performed from memory (voice, piano, and strings only).
4. Only unedited recordings can be accepted for the preliminary round.
5. Recordings must be no longer than 10 minutes.
6. Any recordings of the prize round are considered the property of the Don Wright Faculty of Music.