



NLCS (Singapore)
Young Musician Award
2026

Young Musician Of The Year

Sept 2025 - Jun 2026

In association with:



ry 2025

Introduction

NLCS (Singapore) is proud to open its doors for the inaugural Young Musician of the Year Competition, celebrating the extraordinary talent of Singapore and Asia. The competition is open to players aged 4 to 18 across all Strings, Woodwind, Brass, and Piano, with a special Concerto category for Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, and Trumpet.

Online submissions will be available soon and must be submitted by **15 January 2026**. The Live Rounds will take place on **25 and 26 April in Singapore**, followed by **masterclasses** given by our esteemed panel and a concert for Junior, Intermediate and Senior Category winners on **Saturday 6 June**. The year will culminate in a final Gala Concert on **Sunday 7 June**, featuring the Concerto final, where three outstanding young musicians will have the opportunity to perform live with a Symphony Orchestra. Members of our distinguished judging panel will also perform at this concert, inspiring the next generation of young musicians and celebrating their achievements.

Prizes and recognition

Category Winners (Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Advanced):

Each category winner will receive a trophy of distinction and will perform at the Gala Concert on 6 June 2026.

Advanced Category Finalists:

Advanced competitors selected for the Final will perform a full concerto movement with a Symphony Orchestra on 7 June 2026.

Concerto Winner – Young Musician of the Year 2026:

The overall title will be awarded at the Gala Concert to the top performer from the Concerto Category. The winner will receive:

- A trophy of distinction
- The opportunity to perform as soloist with orchestra
- A **cash prize of SGD \$5,000**

Special Prize – Record Your Winning Piece in a Professional Studio:

Songwork International and **Lion Studios** have come together to provide winners of each category with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to record their winning performance at Lion Studios' legendary facility in Singapore. As a category winner, you will perform your piece in the iconic live room where countless gold and platinum records have been produced over the past 45 years. Your recording session will be produced by **Roo Pigott of Songwork International**, one of the world's leading music producers with a track record of developing artists globally.

Judges

The final Gala Concert round will be adjudicated by a distinguished international jury:

Joshua Tan

One of Singapore's most prominent conductors, Principal Conductor of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, and Associate Conductor of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Graduate of Juilliard and Eastman, widely recognised for his dynamic artistry and commitment to youth music education.



Zhi Jong Wang

Internationally acclaimed violinist, prize-winner at the Sibelius, Tchaikovsky, and Lipizer Competitions. Renowned for her expressive depth and technical brilliance, and currently Associate Professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.



George Harliono

British-Indonesian concert pianist, celebrated for his prodigious talent and international career. Awarded the Silver Medal at the XVII International Tchaikovsky Competition (2023) and praised for his compelling stage presence.



At a Glance

This Participant Pack provides everything you need to know about the **NLCS (Singapore) Young Musician of the Year 2026** competition. Please read carefully and keep for reference.

Key Dates:

Event	Date
Video Submission Deadline	Thursday 15 January 2026
Heats (Semi-Finals) - Junior/Intermediate/Senior	Saturday 25 April 2026
Heats (Semi-Finals) - Advanced	Sunday 26 April 2026
Masterclasses and Gala Final	Saturday 6 June 2026
Concerto Finale	Sunday 7 June 2026

Entry Fees

Category	Age Limit	Entry Fee (SGD)
Junior	10 and Under	S\$130
Intermediate	13 and Under	S\$150
Senior	18 and Under	S\$170
Advanced (Concerto)	18 and Under	S\$210

Categories & Eligibility

Category	Date of Birth Window	Max. Time	Notes
Junior (10 & Under)	6 Jun 2015 – 6 June 2020	5 mins	Own accompanist
Intermediate (13 & Under)	6 Jun 2012 – 6 Jun 2020	7 mins	Own accompanist
Senior (18 & Under)	6 Jun 2007 – 6 Jun 2020	10 mins	Own accompanist
Advanced (18 & Under – Concerto)	6 Jun 2007 – 6 Jun 2020	First movement	From approved concerto list Own accompanist for Heats

Competitors must be 18 years of age or younger as of **6 June 2026**. Proof of age must be provided at registration and at live rounds.

Repertoire Guidance

Each category has minimum expected standards (ABRSM Grade levels), but entrants may perform more advanced works if they wish. Full repertoire examples are provided in **Appendix A**.

Advanced category entrants must perform the entire first movement of a concerto, including cadenza where appropriate. The approved list in **Appendix B**

How to Enter

1. Complete the online entry form.
2. Upload one single-take performance video in MP4 or MOV Format and submit as an unlisted YouTube video.
3. A PDF of the published score. Ensure files are named correctly: *Surname_Firstname_Category_Instrument_Piece_Duration*.
4. Pay the entry fee.
5. Receive confirmation of entry via email.

Video Round Requirements

1. Format: MP4, MOV, (landscape, 1920x1080 minimum).
2. Submit as unlisted YouTube Video, though original files may be required at a later date.
3. Performer and accompanist must both be visible.
4. Strictly no editing/splicing.
5. One complete piece only per category.
6. Recording must not be older than 3 months at submission.
7. Original published score must be shown on video if used.
8. Backing tracks are not permitted.

Live Heats (Semi-Finals)

Date	Event	Location	Note
Saturday 25 April 2026	Junior, Intermediate, Senior	NLCS (Singapore)	All entrants must provide their own accompanist.
Sunday 26 April 2026	Advanced Concerto	NLCS (Singapore)	All entrants must provide their own accompanist.

Judging & Results

1. Performances will be judged by a panel of professional musicians.
2. Judges may stop performances at any time.
3. Decisions are final and binding.

Gala Concert, Concerto Final & Awards

1. Saturday 6 June 2026 – Gala Concert, NLCS (Singapore).
2. Sunday 7 June 2026 - Concerto Finale, NLCS (Singapore)
3. Category winners will perform, with opportunities for solo performance with a Symphony Orchestra Orchestra.
4. Awards include trophies and performance recognition.

Rules and Regulations

General Competition Rules

- The competition is open to instrumentalists playing Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Piano, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, and Trumpet.
- Competitors may enter more than one category, but not a category below their age group.
- All entries must be submitted by the official deadline. Late entries will not be accepted.
- All competitors must provide proof of date of birth upon registration and again at the live heats.
- All participants must be available for the live heats (25–26 April 2026) and the Gala Final (6-7 June 2026) if selected.

Video Submission Rules

- All initial performances must be submitted as video recordings, firstly as an unlisted YouTube video, and as an MP4 or MOV file upon request.
- Videos must be filmed in landscape orientation with both performer and accompanist clearly visible throughout.
- No editing or splicing is permitted. Performances must be uncut and recorded in a single take.
- Video resolution must be a minimum of **1920x1080 (Full HD)**.
- The video must have been recorded within 3 months of the submission deadline.
- Only one complete piece may be submitted unless otherwise stated for the category.
- A PDF of the published score (clearly labeled) must be submitted with the application.
- Videos and documents must be submitted through the official online platform.

Accompaniment

- All performances must be accompanied live by a human pianist; backing tracks are not allowed.
- If the performance is recorded with score, the original music must be visible in the video.
- Accompanist services are available upon request for participants who require one.
- Participants requesting an accompanist will be responsible for the associated costs, which will be provided upon enquiry.
- Fee Structure:
 - \$150 SGD per hour (exclusive of GST)
 - Sessions may be also be priced and organised in 30-minute intervals accordingly based on individual requirements.
- Booking Process:
 - All accompanist arrangements must be made through the organisers.
 - Candidates are responsible for accompanist fees, payable directly to the pianist.
 - Payment must be made prior to the performance
 - Requests should be submitted well in advance to ensure availability
 - Candidates must specify their repertoire and timing requirements when booking
- Important Notes:
 - Limited availability - early booking recommended
 - Cancellation policies may apply
- If you have any further queries or would like to organise accompanist services, please contact the organisers at yma@nlcssingapore.com

Repertoire and Performance Time

- Each category has a maximum performance time that must not be exceeded.
- Maximum Time Allowed:
 - Junior: 5 minutes
 - Intermediate: 7 minutes
 - Senior: 10 minutes
 - Advanced: Full first movement of an approved concerto
- Repertoire must be age-appropriate, technically suitable, and within the stated time limits.
- Entrants in the **Advanced (Concerto)** category must select repertoire from **the official concerto list** and include a cadenza where appropriate.
- Memorisation **is encouraged but not compulsory**. No additional marks are awarded for performing from memory.

Judging

- All judging decisions are made by a panel of professional musicians and educators.
- Judges may stop a performance early if they have sufficient evidence to make a decision.
- The judges' decisions are **final and non-negotiable**.
- Judges reserve the right to award joint prizes or to withhold prizes if the standard is not met.

Participation and Conduct

- All participants must treat fellow competitors, judges, and staff with **respect and professionalism**.
- Any breach of conduct, dishonesty, or failure to comply with the competition rules may result in **disqualification**.
- Entrants are responsible for arranging their own travel, accommodation, and accompanist fees.

Media and Publicity

- By entering the competition, participants (and their guardians) grant permission for NLCS (Singapore) to use **recordings, photographs, and names** for promotional purposes.
- Videos submitted become the **property of NLCS (Singapore)** for educational and archival use.
- Recording or photographing other participants during live events is **strictly prohibited**.
- All video submissions must **comply with YouTube's community guidelines** applicable in your region. Videos must be uploaded by a parent or legal guardian on behalf of the participant.
- For a guide on how to upload an unlisted video, please view this video: <https://youtu.be/cbV6AuQLzJg>.

Cancellations and Amendments

- In the event of unforeseen circumstances, NLCS (Singapore) reserves the right to **change the format, schedule, or venue** of the competition.
 - In the case of cancellation by the organiser, entry fees will be refunded. **No refunds** will be issued for voluntary withdrawals after registration.
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Appendix A. Repertoire Examples by Category

Junior (10 and Under)

We welcome beginners who are starting to build confidence and stage presence.

Max. Performance Time: 5 minutes

Minimum expected standard: Approximately ABRSM Grade 2 or equivalent.

Suggested repertoire includes:

- Kabalevsky – Clowns
- Burgmüller – Arabesque
- Suzuki Book 1–2 pieces (e.g., Minuet No. 2)
- Any Grade 2–3 level pieces suitable for solo performance
- Any Grade 2–3 level solo repertoire or above

Intermediate (13 and Under)

Students in this category are expected to demonstrate increasing technical control and musical interpretation.

Max. Performance Time: 7 minutes

Minimum expected standard: Approximately ABRSM Grade 4–5 or equivalent.

Suggested repertoire includes:

- Clementi – Sonatina in C, Op. 36 No. 1
- Dvořák – Humoresque
- Handel – Sonata in F (Flute)
- Any Grade 4–5 level solo repertoire
- Any Grade 4 - 5 level solo repertoire or above

Senior (18 and Under)

Entrants should show confidence in expressive playing, interpretation, and stylistic awareness.

Max. Performance Time: 10 minutes

Minimum expected standard: Approximately ABRSM Grade 5 or equivalent.

Suggested repertoire includes:

- Vivaldi – Concerto in A minor, 1st or 3rd movement
 - Chopin – Waltz in A Minor
 - Massenet – Méditation
 - Marcello – Oboe Concerto in C minor
 - Any Grade 5 piece and above
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Appendix B. Approved Concerto Repertoire (Advanced)

Strings Concerto Repertoire

Violin	Brahms	Concerto in D Major
Violin	Bruch	Concerto no.1 in G minor
Violin	Beethoven	Concerto in D Major
Violin	Lalo	Symphonie Espanole
Violin	Mozart	Concerto no.1
Violin	Mozart	Concerto no.2
Violin	Mozart	Concerto no.3
Violin	Mozart	Concerto no.4
Violin	Mozart	Concerto no.5
Violin	Mendelssohn	Concerto in E minor
Violin	Sibelius	Concerto D minor
Violin	Tchaikovsky	Concerto in D Major

Viola	JC Bach	Concerto in C minor
Viola	Schubert	Concerto in C Major
Viola	Stamitz	Concerto in D Major
Viola	Telemann	Concerto in G Major
Cello	Dvorak	Concerto in B minor
Cello	Elgar	Concerto in E minor
Cello	Haydn	Concerto in C Major
Cello	Lalo	Concerto in D minor
Cello	Saint-Saens	Concerto no.1 in E minor
Cello	Schumann	Concerto in A minor
Cello	Tchaikovsky	Variations on a Rococo Theme
Double Bass	Botessini	Concerto in B minor
Double Bass	Dittersdorf	Concerto in E Major
Double Bass	Dragonetti	Concerto in A Major
Double Bass	Koussevitzky	Concerto op.3 in F# minor

Piano Concerto Repertoire

Piano	Greig	Concerto in A minor
Piano	Beethoven	Concerto no.1
Piano	Beethoven	Concerto no.2
Piano	Beethoven	Concerto no.3
Piano	Beethoven	Concerto no.4
Piano	Beethoven	Concerto no.5
Piano	Chopin	Concerto no.1
Piano	Chopin	Concerto no.2
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.11
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.12
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.13
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.14
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.17
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.20

Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.21
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.24
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.25
Piano	Mozart	Concerto no.27
Piano	Ravel	Concerto in G Major
Piano	Schumann	Concerto in A minor
Piano	Shostakovich	Concerto no.1
Piano	Shostakovich	Concerto no.2
Piano	Tchaikovsky	Concerto no.1

Wind Concerto Repertoire

Flute	Bach	Concerto in D minor
Flute	Boccherini	Concerto in D Major
Flute	Haydn	Concerto in D Major
Flute	Mozart	Concerto in G Major K.313
Flute	Mozart	Concerto no. 1 in G Major K.313
Flute	Mozart	Concerto no. 2 in D Major K.314
Flute	Romberg	Concerto in B minor op.17
Oboe	Albinoni	Any Concerti
Oboe	Bach	Any Concerti
Oboe	Haydn	Concerto in C Major
Oboe	Handel	Concerto
Oboe	Marcello	Concerto in C Minor
Oboe	Mozart	Concerto in C Major K.314
Oboe	Strauss	Concerto

Oboe	Telemann	Concerto in D minor
Oboe	Telemann	Concerto in E minor
Oboe	Telemann	Concerto in F minor
Oboe	Vivaldi	Any Concerti
Clarinet	Mozart	Concerto in A Major K.622
Clarinet	Spohr	Concerto in C minor Op.26
Clarinet	Stamitz	Concerto in Eb Major
Clarinet	Weber	Concerto no.1 in F minor Op.73
Clarinet	Weber	Concerto no.2 in Eb major Op.74
Clarinet	Weber	Concerto in Eb major Op.26
Bassoon	Hummel	Concerto in F Major
Bassoon	Mozart	Concerto in Bb Major K.191
Bassoon	Vivaldi	Concerto P.70 in A minor

Brass Concerto Repertoire

Horn	Haydn	Concerto no.1 in D Major
Horn	Haydn	Concerto no. 2 in D Major
Horn	Mozart	Concerto no. 1 in D Major K.412
Horn	Mozart	Concerto no. 2 in Eb Major K.417
Horn	Mozart	Concerto no. 3 in Eb Major K.447
Horn	Mozart	Concerto no. 4 in Eb. Major K.495
Horn	Strauss	Concerto no.1 Op.11
Trumpet	Albinoni	Any Concerti
Trumpet	Arutunian	Concerto
Trumpet	Haydn	Concerto in Eb Major
Trumpet	Hummel	Concerto in Eb Major
Trumpet	Torelli	Concerto in D Major

Appendix C. Submission Checklist

- Video meets technical requirements
 - PDF of published score uploaded
 - File names correct
 - Proof of age uploaded
 - Entry fee paid
 - Accompanist arranged
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