

2026 Caprio Young Artists Competition

Sunday, April 19, 2026 – 3:00pm

South Hunterdon Regional High School, 301 Mt Airy-Harbourton Rd., Lambertville, NJ

Presented by the Riverside Symphonia,
Mariusz Smolij, Musical Director and Conductor

Application Instructions (pages 1 & 2) and Form (page 3)

Eligibility

The 2026 Caprio Young Artists Competition is open to classical instrumentalists (excluding keyboard), who reside or study in New Jersey, New York or Pennsylvania and will be no older than 22 years of age on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

Application Requirements

Each application must include the following to be considered complete:

1. A completed and signed application form (page 3).
2. Two letters of recommendation.
3. A photocopy of a government issued identification document (i.e., driver's license, passport, birth certificate, state issued identification card)
4. A black and white photo of the applicant (high resolution, 300 dpi print)
5. A one paragraph, brief biography of the applicant
6. A non-refundable application fee of \$30.00 payable to "The Riverside Symphonia" in the form of a check or money order.

7. **An 8-12 minutes unedited, live recorded performance by the applicant in MP3 or MP4 format: AUDIO FILE ONLY WITH NO IMAGE OF APPLICANT OR REFERENCE TO NAME; FREE OF CUTS AND DIGITAL MASTERING: MUST BE A ONE-TAKE RECORDING ONLY.** The live recorded performance will serve as the preliminary round for the competition and may be submitted as audio only CD, or digitally as an mp3 or mp4 file. Files must be labeled with the name of the composition, movement and composer – but without reference to the applicant's name, gender, age, school or any other information that could identify the applicant. Selection(s) may be of any of the standard repertoire for the applicant's instrument scored for soloist and orchestra. Piano accompaniment is acceptable for the recorded audition. **The selection(s) should be those intended for use in the final competition and concert.** The chosen repertoire must have orchestral accompaniment currently available for orchestra. The Riverside Symphonia's current instrumentation is: strings, woodwinds in pairs, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, and timpani. A small enlargement of this instrumentation may be made on an individual basis at the discretion of the conductor. The recorded performance may include movement(s) of standard concerto, standard virtuosic selection or two short contrasting works, provided that the orchestral setting is available.

Application Deadline

All application materials are due **Monday, March 16, 2026** and must be postmarked no later than that date or emailed no later than 11:59pm on that date. The mailing address is: Caprio Young Artists Competition, Riverside Symphonia, PO Box 650, Lambertville, 08530. Digital applications and audio files must be emailed to: capriocompetition@gmail.com. Each applicant will receive an email confirming receipt of the application package.

Judges

Judges for the preliminary round and final round competition will be distinguished instrumentalists and music professionals, including members of The Riverside Symphonia. Maestro Smolij, Music Director and Conductor, will be one of the judges at the final competition.

Communication Rules

Applicants may not contact any member of The Riverside Symphonia or Judging Panel. If any applicant attempts to contact any member of The Riverside Symphonia or Judging Panel, that applicant will be disqualified from the competition. All inquiries must be communicated by email to capriocompetition@gmail.com or call The Riverside Symphonia office: 609-637-7300.

Preliminary Round

Applicants' audio recordings will first be judged "blind" without judges knowing the identity of the performer. Finalists will be chosen to perform at the April 19, 2026 competition.

Finalist Notification

Each applicant will be notified on or before **Monday, March 30, 2026** whether or not they qualify as a finalist for the final live, March 24, 2024 Caprio Young Artists Competition.

Final Competition

Finalists will compete in a live, public audition on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at South Hunterdon Regional High School, 301 Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road, Lambertville, NJ 08530. Finalists must provide their own transportation and piano accompanist for the final round. If a finalist has studied with, contacted or has personal ties with a judge, the judge will be requested to be disqualified for that finalist. In such a case, the scores of the other judges will be averaged to provide the additional score. Judges will select First, Second and Third Prize winners. **The decision of the judges is final.**

Prizes

The First Prize winner will receive a total of \$2000: a \$500 cash prize at the live final round on Sunday, April 19, 2026 and a contract to perform as a guest soloist with The Riverside Symphonia during a regularly scheduled concert in the 2026-2027 season for a payment of \$1,500. Upon completion of the performance, the First Prize winner will receive a check for \$1,500. Failure to perform as stated in the contract will result in forfeiture of the \$1,500. The Second Prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,000. The Third Prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$500. Non-prizewinning finalists will each receive \$100.

Caprio Young Artists Competition Application Form

Return by Monday, March 16, 2026 to capriocompetition@gmail.com or
mail to Riverside Symphonia, PO Box 650, Lambertville, NJ 08530

Please type or print:

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Instrument: _____

Current address:

Permanent address:

Phone #: _____ Mobile #: _____ Email: _____

Selection(s) on audio file of recorded performance:

1. Full Title: _____ Movement: _____

Composer: _____ Timing: _____

2. Full Title: _____ Movement: _____

Composer: _____ Timing: _____

Please check each item to confirm you have included:

1. ___ A completed and signed application form.
2. ___ Two letters of recommendation.
3. ___ A photocopy of a government issued identification document (i.e., passport, birth certificate, state issued identification card)
4. ___ A black and white photo of the applicant (high resolution, 300 dpi print)
5. ___ A brief biography of the applicant
6. ___ A non-refundable application fee of \$30.00 payable to "The Riverside Symphonia" in the form of a check or money order.
7. ___ An 8-12 minutes live, unedited, recorded performance, **AUDIO ONLY**, free of cuts and digital mastering, **The audio file can not contain any picture or name of the performer.** Recordings may be submitted in the following formats: audio CD, MP3 or MP4 file, **This must be a one-take recording only.**

Signature of applicant: _____

If applicant under the age of 18, parent or guardian must sign and print name:

Signature

Printed Name

All applications are due Monday, March 16, 2026. Email all documents and recording to: capriocompetition@gmail.com or mail to: Caprio Young Artists Competition, The Riverside Symphonia, PO Box 650, Lambertville, NJ 08530.

This application form may be duplicated.