

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Part 1. Application Questions

#### What type of musicians should apply?

We accept applicants from ANY instrument and genre. Previous winners have included jazz guitar, classical piano, classical cello, Celtic violin and cello duet, singer/song writers, Chinese bamboo flute, opera singers, and pop and Broadway style singers.

#### What music should I play?

We recommend applying with a piece that best represents your talents. Think of a piece that you feel highlights your skill and capabilities that you love to perform. If you are selected as a winner, the Boston Pops will likely be accompanying you.

#### Do I have to select a piece that has orchestral accompaniment?

If you are a classical performer, you MUST choose a piece with an existing orchestral accompaniment. If you are not a classical performer, i.e. singer/song writers, pop singers, etc., then this rule does not apply to you.

#### I have questions about my piece, who do I ask?

We recommend discussing your piece with your music teacher when possible. If you need additional help we are happy to help you at the Boston Pops. Email [yac@bso.org](mailto:yac@bso.org)

#### Will I perform the same piece at the audition?

The piece that you submit with your application is the piece you are REQUIRED to play at the live audition rounds. If you perform with an alternative piece you will be disqualified.

#### Does my piece need to be under 4 mins?

The piece you apply with should be approximately 4 minutes. It is common to make cuts to a longer piece to fit this requirement. You will not be disqualified for submitting a longer piece, but the judges will not allow you to audition longer than 4 mins. It is recommended to make cuts to your original piece so that your audition video and the live audition are the same.

#### How old do I have to be to apply?

Each applicant must be between 13-19 years of age as of January 3, 2020

#### I live in another state, but I take music lessons in Massachusetts.

The competition is only open to students who attend high school and reside in Massachusetts.

#### Can I apply with a group?

Yes, groups of up to 5 members may apply. Every member of the group must submit an application to be considered. Your application is not complete until everyone in your group submits an application.

## Part 2. Audition Questions

### Who are the judges?

The judges are a group of professional musicians from the Boston Pops, local universities, and/or local experts on classical, gospel, popular music.

### How many people are accepted to the live audition?

Up to 20 are accepted to move to the live audition round.

### When will I be notified if I was accepted to the live audition round?

We will email every applicant with the judge's decision by Friday, April 3, 2020.

### Can I bring an accompanist to the audition?

Yes, every applicant is welcome to bring an accompanist to the audition. Accompanist needs will be confirmed prior to the audition day.

### Does my accompanist need to be a student?

No, your accompanist does not need to be a student and does not need to fill out an application.

### I was provided an arrival time, is this my audition time?

Your arrival time is when you should arrive and check in at Symphony Hall. You will audition within 90 minutes of your arrival. We cannot guarantee exact audition times.

### Can my coach/parent watch my audition?

Parents/Coaches are not allowed in the audition. They may wait backstage for you to complete your audition.

### When will the winners and non-winners be notified?

We will notify winners and non-winners by April 16 after the live auditions.

## Part 3. Coaching and Competition Winner Questions

### What happens after I win?

After you are notified that you won the competition, Boston Pops team members will start working on selecting you a coach to prepare you for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> concert. This process typically takes about two weeks to identify a coach. Then we will reach out to schedule your coaching sessions and also time to meet with our film crew for interviews.

### Do I need to be available all day on the dates in May that are listed in the rules?

Your coaching sessions will be scheduled based on what works for you and your coach. Some alternative dates may be selected. Each coaching session is approximately 1-2 hours. There is no flexibility on the coaching with Keith Lockhart, the sound checks, and the orchestra rehearsal in the dates listed on

[www.bostonpops.org/fidelitycompetition](http://www.bostonpops.org/fidelitycompetition)

### How am I paired with a coach?

The Boston Pops team will pair you with a coach that will help prepare you for the performance. Coaches are often musicians from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, and/or well-known professors and performers in Boston.

**Does my mentor need to attend all the rehearsals?**

Your mentor is not required to attend all coaching and rehearsal sessions. They are more than welcome to attend if they would like but it is not a requirement.

**How many tickets will I receive?**

You will receive 6 tickets for the performance to give to your family and friends. All of these seats will be together. We will also send 6 tickets to the individual you listed as your mentor.

**What happens during the coaching sessions?**

During each of your one-on-one coaching sessions you will work to prepare your performance for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> concert. Your coach may have specific performance skills and advice to share. He/She will also work with the Boston Pops team on any orchestration questions as needed.

**Will I play my audition piece on June 2?**

Unless otherwise notified by a member of the Boston Pops, you will play the same piece you audition with. Sometimes slight variations are required but this will be worked out in advance between you, your coach, and the Boston Pops team.

**Will the Boston pops be playing with me?**

While we do not guarantee that the Boston pops will perform with you, we do aim to make this a possibility. It is solely dependent on the piece you are playing and the ultimate decision of the Boston Pops team. This is why we ask that classical musicians to select a piece with existing orchestral arrangements.

**If I don't play my piece, what happens?**

If we are not able to accommodate the piece you wanted to play, the Boston pops team will work with you to find a suitable alternative.

**Where will my coaching sessions take place?**

Each coaching session will take place at Symphony Hall on dates and time that are mutually agreeable with you and your coach.

**What happens the day of the performance on June 2?**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> you will be required to attend the full orchestra rehearsal with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops. This time will be confirmed with you in May. After the rehearsal, you are free to leave Symphony Hall and return back in the evening. We ask that each performer is back at Symphony Hall by 6pm at the latest. You will be provided a space to dress and store items prior to your performance.

**What happens at the concert on June 2<sup>nd</sup>?**

During the June 2<sup>nd</sup> concert winners will perform their piece in the first half of the concert. During intermission, you can greet your friends and family and store your instrument if needed. For the second half of the concert you will be provided seats in the balcony. Directly following the concert, you will be taken backstage for photos with the guest artists and the conductor.

*\*Rules and procedures are subject to change at the Sponsor and BSO's sole discretion.*