



## Satori Summer Music Festival 2026

**Satori CM. Contact Information:**

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**Satori CM Web Site:** <http://www.satoricm.net>

**Satori Summer Music Festival Web Site:** <http://event.satoricm.net>

**Registration Web Site:** <https://eventregistration.satoricm.net/>

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## Introduction

The Satori Summer Music Festival is one of the largest youth classical music competitions in Southern California. It has been held annually each summer for the past 2 decades. This competition is dedicated to encouraging the growth of thousands of young musicians. We provide a stage and panel of judges to evaluate each student's skills in the endeavor of encouraging their growth as musicians.

## How to participate

Eligibility: Students under the age of 19 years old are eligible to participate.

## Event Date:

The competition will take place over the course of 4 days split between 2 weekends. **Strings will perform on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2026, and Piano will perform on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2026.**

**For this year, a number of Piano Qualified subcategories will perform alongside Open and Prodigy Strings on July 18<sup>th</sup>.**

### Strings:

- Day 1 (Saturday July 18th, 2026) will be all Open and Prodigy categories of Strings. Certain Piano Qualified subcategories will also perform on this day.
- Day 2 (Sunday July 19th, 2025) will be all Qualified categories and Grand Prize Contest of Strings.

More information can be found at: <http://event.satoricm.net/satori-young-pianist-contest/>

### Piano

- Day 1 (Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026) Qualified categories (Age group to be determined later) of Piano.
- Day 3 (Saturday July 25th, 2026) will be all Open and Prodigy categories of Piano. Qualified categories (Age group to be determined later) of Piano.
- Day 4 (Sunday July 26th, 2026) will be all Qualified categories (Age group to be determined later) and Grand Prize Contest of Piano.

More information for Strings can be found at: <http://event.satoricm.net/satori-strings-contest/>

### Grand Prize:

Grand prize contestants will be chosen from the Open and Prodigy categories. Eligible candidates will be able to register on-site.

If you are qualified for the Grand Prize competition and choose to participate, please go to our reception desk and register after receiving your results.

The tentative schedule of the Grand Prize will be: (Strings on July 19th and Piano on July 26th).

- Category I: Age groups 9 and under 9:00 am – 10:00 am
- Category II: Age groups 10-12 10:15 am – 11:45 pm
- Category III: Age groups 13-15 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
- Category IV: Age groups 16-19 2:45 pm – 4:30 pm

- Category V: Age groups 20+ 4:45 pm – 5:15 pm

## Important Changes

- Unlike previous years, the Open Category time limit has been increased from 6 minutes to 7 minutes.
- Due to the large number of Piano Qualified category entries last year, for this year we will have a number of Piano Qualified subcategory students perform on Saturday, July 18th (first day of Strings).
  - We will determine which age and subcategory will perform on July 18th once the Satori committee has full knowledge of this year's turnout. When registering for Piano Qualified, please keep this scheduling change in mind. Any rescheduling requests should be submitted to [satoristrings@live.com](mailto:satoristrings@live.com) in the week following the initial schedule release.

## Event Location

We will once again be hosting the event at **Azusa Pacific University**. You can find the map, building layout, and parking information in the Additional Information section.

## Competition Information

### Competition Group

Students participating in the competition will be evaluated by Competition Group. Competition Groups are a group of 3-5 students sharing instrument, competition subcategory, and age who are evaluated together by Satori Competition judges. For example, Violin Entry Qualified American Age 10 (VN/EA10) could be one competition group.

If there are too many contestants in the same category and the same age group, we may create multiple competition groups instead of one. Each of those competition groups will be evaluated independently. Note: when creating a Competition Subgroup, the selection is random.

### Schedule

The competition schedule is arranged by **time-slot**. Each time-slot will be around one hour. All contestants in the same time-slot will enter the competition room together. One time slot may contain multiple competition groups. (Note: each competition group will be evaluated individually).

The **competition room** will be assigned with the schedule. You can refer the building layout, which is attached in the Additional Information Section, to locate the competition room.

The schedule will be posted once it is available. It should be two weeks after registration is closed.

For strings, the schedule can be found at <http://event.satoricm.net/satori-strings-contest/strings-contest-schedule/>

For piano, the schedule can be found at <http://event.satoricm.net/satori-young-pianist-contest/young-pianist-contest-schedule/>

## Evaluation Process

- Contestants will be evaluated by Competition Group. Judges will prioritize evaluating students according to their own standards for what makes a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> Place performance, over comparing students with one another.
  - Qualified Category Judges will not compare students, so it is very possible to have multiple First Place winners in a Qualified Competition Group.
  - Students in Open, Prodigy, and Young Virtuoso Categories will be evaluated by both the Judge's standards AND will be compared with one another in evaluations. In these categories, it is more likely to have a single First Place winner than multiple.
- Each performance will be evaluated by two judges.
- Evaluation rubric categories:
  - Presentation
  - Technique
  - Musicality
  - Overall combination
- Judges will write down their opinions or suggestions on their respective comment sheets and reward contestants with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- For Open and Prodigy Categories, the 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner of each competition group will qualify for the Grand Prize Competition. See Grand Prize Competition for more details.

## Result, Comment Sheets, and Trophy

After each time-slot is done, Judges will make decisions on placements and deliver the result to an event administrator for recording and proof reading. The chief judge will do a final review and sign off. Under the normal circumstances, the results should be displayed on our posting board one hour after the time-slot.

All contestants will receive two comment sheets and a trophy. It will be handed out after the time slot results have been posted. Contestants will come to the Trophy Desk to pick up their items. If for any reason you can't wait for the results and wish to ship the trophy after the competition, please go to the Trophy Desk and leave your shipping information with us. Please be aware there will be shipping and handling charges.

Please follow the instructions of staff on site and to also check trophy name plates upon receiving. If there are any errors, please communicate with our staff on site. We will make appropriate corrections.

## Requirements during the competition:

Each competition room will have two Judges, one room monitor, and one coordinator. Please follow their instructions. Failure to follow their instruction may result in disqualification or request to leave the competition room.

- Please make sure you have two copies of the evaluation forms before entering the competition room.

Evaluation forms can be found on the Satori website.

Strings:

<https://www.satoricm.net/satoricmFile/scm/form/Satori%20Strings%20Contest%20Evaluation%20Form.pdf>

Piano:

<https://www.satoricm.net/satoricmFile/scm/form/Satori%20Young%20Pianist%20Contest%20Evaluation%20Form.pdf>

Please fill out the competitor's name, repertoire, and other required information. Each competitor's Entry Number will be provided once the schedule is ready. Please print and pre-fill information before the time of the competition to expedite the check-in process.

- Proper performance attire. Keep in mind that presentation is one of the competition's adjudication criteria.
- Other than judge's inquiry, please do not directly approach judges for any reason.
- All judges' decisions are final. Only recording errors, improper comments, and any other processing mistake can be corrected.
- **Music score for judges must either be originals or photocopies with proof of purchase/ public domain origin.**  
Copies of the score can either be 1) **the original score for the piece**, or 2) **an electronically sourced/ photocopied version.**  
If you provide an electronically sourced/ photocopied version of the score, you must also provide a brief description of where you obtained the copy from (i.e proof of purchase, link to public domain source, etc). No illegally sourced copies of the score will be accepted at the time of the competition, and any contestants providing an illegally sourced copy will be disqualified to prevent any copyright infringements.

## **Requirements during the competition (cont'd):**

- Photo and video recording are permitted, but please be respectful to others and do not disturb performers with flashlights, flashing lights, or any noises.
- During the performance, all audience members are to remain in their seat.
- Time Limits. If your performance exceeds the time limit, the Judges will stop your performance. There will be no penalty. However, we strongly suggest you arrange your piece according to the time limit to present your best performance.  
(Please be aware that the timer starts when the student's name is called and they answer and approach the stage)
  - Prodigy Categories: 10 minutes maximum performing time.
  - Open Young Virtuoso Categories: 10 minutes maximum performing time.
  - Open Categories: 7 minutes maximum performing time.
  - All Qualified Category: 4 minutes maximum performance time.

## Grand Prize Information

Based on Judge's decision, several Grand Prize Winners will be chosen each year. We announce the winners right after the Grand Prize Winners' Concert with the Grand Prize Trophy will be presented to the winners in an award ceremony. Since this is the Winners' Concert, all the contestants will be presented with a Certificate of Recognition. We will post the entire Grand Prize Concert on YouTube for viewing.

Contest winners are chosen by age group.

**Solo category:**

Category I: 9-year-old and under

Category II: 10 – 12

Category III: 13 – 15

Category IV: 16 and older

Category V: 20+

**Ensemble category:**

Category I: the eldest member of 13-year-old or under

Category II: age 14 – 19

**Fees:**

\$80 application fee for each solo performer.

\$100 application fee for each ensemble group.

### Sign-up eligibility:

1st Place winners of Prodigy and Open categories are encouraged to sign up for the Grand Prize Contest, which will be held the following day.

The Grand Prize Competition is separated by age group. One grand prize and several special prize winners may be chosen for each age group. If performer(s) can't meet the Judge's standard, a Grand or Special Prize may not be distributed.

The same person will not be rewarded with Grand Prize if they participate in the same age group for two consecutive years. They will instead be awarded a Special Prize trophy and Achievement in Excellence Award if he/she qualifies.

### Grand Prize:

Given to the best performance of the Age Category.

### Special Award:

**Judge's Award.** Awarded to best in completion.

**Presentation Award.** Awarded to the best presentable performance.

**Technic Award.** Awarded to best in technical display.

**Musical Award.** Awarded to the best musical performance for their pieces.

## **Award & Scholarship**

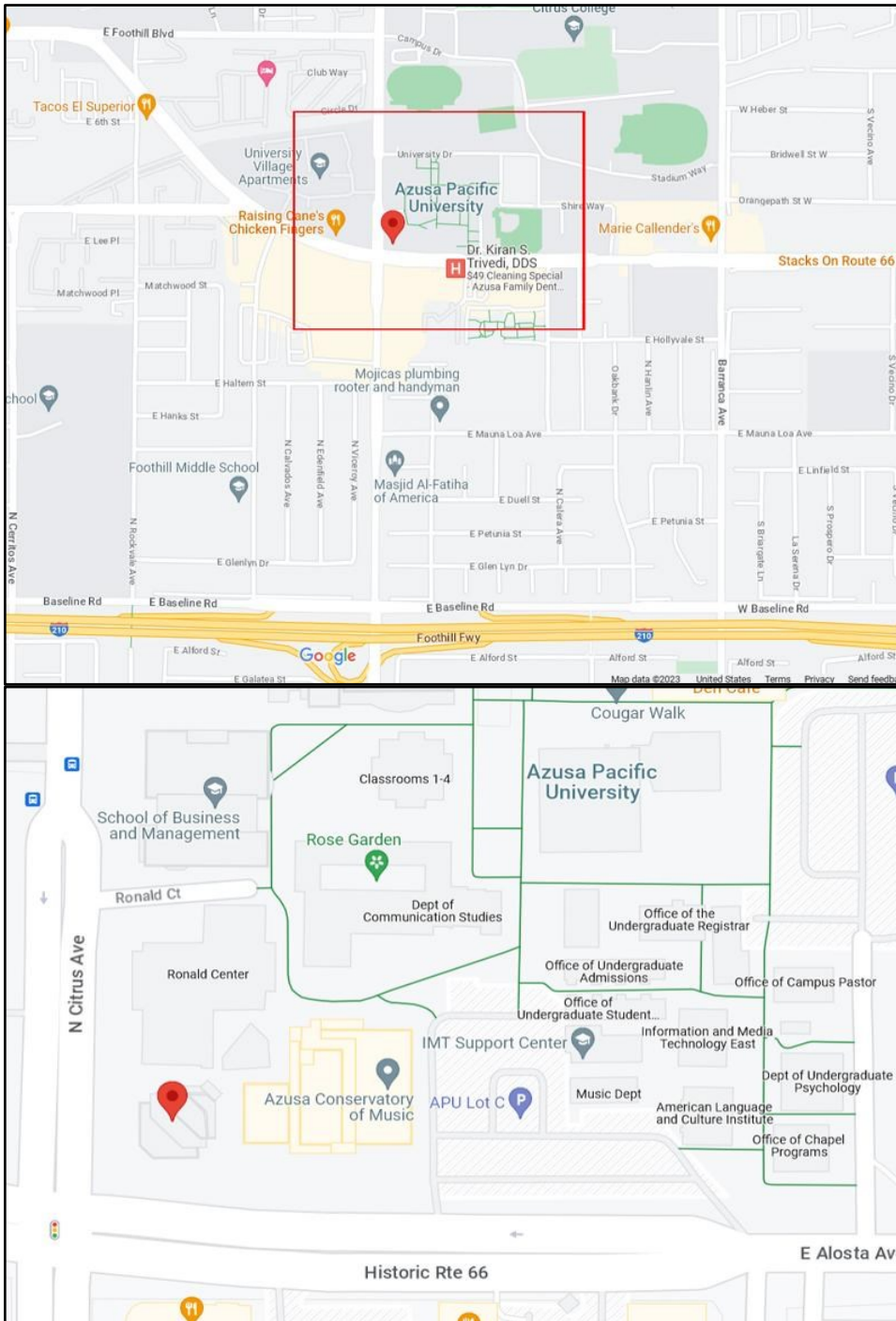
Satori Summer Musical Festival offers various cash awards and scholarships for the Grand Prize Winner.

Details can be found at <http://www.satoricm.net/content/award-scholarship>

# Additional Information

## Location Map:

Address: 901 E Alosta Ave, Azusa, CA 91702



**Event Parking:**

Parking Lot C (the one right next to the Music building) is only available for event Judge and Organizers.

Please use the Parking Lot at University Drive.

**Building Layout:**

