Dundas Valley Orchestra HAALSA Young Musician Award 2026

Criteria

**Purpose:**

To recognize a promising young musician and provide them with an opportunity to perform as a soloist with the Dundas Valley Orchestra (DVO)

**Eligibility Requirements**

* Open to all orchestral instruments including harp, guitar, piano, organ, and voice
* Contestants should be no older than 19 at the time of application
* Resident of the Greater Hamilton Burlington Area
* Nominated by a music teacher

**Audition Requirements**

* Contestants must submit an application alongside a suitable recording that reflects their current level of musicianship by April 15th, 2026 (e.g., by CD, USB, .mp3, or link to online media)
* The recording may be own choice or the audition piece (the latter must be played for the live audition in September/October 2026 – see below)
* Applicants selected for the live audition will be notified by May 31st, 2026
* Selected contestants will come in for a live audition at a prearranged time in September/October 2026
* The suitability of the audition piece will be approved by the conductor of the DVO during the selection process for the live auditions

**Winner Selection Process**

* The contestants will be judged on their age-related level of musicianship
* The DVO’s HAALSA Young Musician Award Committee will forward a nominee (s) for consideration to the DVO Board of Directors
* Final approval for selection of the winner is made by the DVO Board of Directors by October 2026

**HAALSA Young Musicians Award Prizes**

* A certificate of achievement
* A cash award of $250.00 provided by HAALSA
* Perform with the DVO in February 2027

**Music Selection Requirements for Live Audition/Performance with the DVO**

* Audition/performance piece must be one movement of a concerto or a one-movement composition suitable for accompaniment by the DVO in consultation with the conductor
* The accompanying music must be readily available
* Audition/performance piece should be no longer than 10 minutes

**Summary of Application and Selection Deadlines**

* Applications are due April 15th, 2026
* Those chosen for an audition in the fall will be contacted by May 31st, 2026
* Audition pieces will be approved by June 15th, 2026
* Auditions will follow in September/October 2026
* Winner will be announced by October 2026
* Concert performance with the DVO will likely be in February 2027 (date can change)