

Dan Stover Music Contest Rules
January 25, 2026 Sierra Madre Rotary Competition

Contestant Criteria:

- Applicant must live within the Pasadena or Arcadia Unified School District.
- He or she has a reasonable ability to play a musical instrument.
- Applicant plans on using the scholarship award for future educational expenses.

Rules:

- The competition is limited to instrumentalists only.
- Any musical instrument is allowed.
- There is a maximum time limit of 8 minutes for any piece. Failure to finish in 8 minutes will result in deductions.
- There is no minimum time limit.
- Selection of music is left to the instrumentalist and may be any piece of music including one's own composition.
- Accompanist(s) may be used, and if required by the piece, as many as needed may be used. The accompanist(s) may not overshadow the student contestant. Each student will be responsible for their own accompanist for all competitions. This is not the responsibility of the club. A piano will be provided.

Judging Criteria:

- Musical Ability:

Is the contestant familiar with the instrument being played and do they appear to have command of this particular instrument?

- Musical Sound:

Does the instrument respond to the contestant in a manner that makes it desirable to listen to and make the listener want to hear more?

- Stage Presence:

Does the contestant have a command of the stage (area of performance), and is there a sense of rapport with the audience?

Cash Awards:

- First place winner: \$300.00
- Second place winner: \$200.00
- Third place winner: \$100.00

The First-place winner may continue to a regional competition; if successful, may compete in the Rotary district wide event with a first-place award of \$5,000.00.