



The San Antonio Symphony League's

Paint to Music Contest

2025-2026 RULES AND GUIDELINES



2025 BEST OF SHOW Winner –
Marcela Masip – Galm Elementary

*** Key Points:

- Contest is open to all students from Kindergarten through Grade 12!
- There are separate musical selections for Grades K – 5 and 6 – 12.
- Artwork will be projected during Alamo City Arts Connect: Student Performance Series on Feb 4-6, 2026.

Important Things to Note:

- Submission of artwork will be ONLY:
 - in-person on Drop-Off Day, **Jan. 10, 2026**, at one of three locations, **OR**
 - via postal mail, to be received on or before Drop-Off Day.
 - Please, no exceptions. See also SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES (No. 10).
- Please submit **no more than 30 pieces of artwork per participating grade level** (pre-selecting as necessary).

1. HISTORY OF THE CONTEST:

- This is the 52nd anniversary of the contest, which was created in 1973 as an enhancement to the San Antonio Symphony's educational program.
- The purpose of the contest is to encourage children to explore the language of music and the role that classical music can play in enhancing creative expression through art.

2. BASIC INFORMATION:

- The Symphony League invites students of grades **Kindergarten through grade 12** to create a work of visual art in the classroom setting while listening to thematic selections of music chosen by Alamo City Arts to coordinate with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) teaching objectives (see MUSIC SELECTIONS below).
- Submitted pieces of artwork are reviewed by a panel of judges.
- Normally, some 150 – 200 pieces of artwork are awarded a prize (see also WINNING ENTRIES). We expect more this year with inclusion of additional grades.
- Selections of the winning artwork will be showcased in the Alamo City Arts' Symphony Viva student concerts performances of Rimsky Korsakov's *Scheherazade* on Feb. 4-6, 2026.

3. ELIGIBILITY:

- The Paint to Music Contest is open to all students in grades **Kindergarten through grade 12. We encourage educators to register their students to attend the February concerts.**
 - For information about the concert programs, dates, and reservations, see <https://www.alamocityperformingartsassociation.com/programs> .
 - For all other inquiries related to the Contest, please see CONTACT INFORMATION below.



- Only one entry per student will be allowed. Please, no exceptions.
- ****Please be mindful of the subject.**** Students are encouraged to create a work of art that is either wholly abstract in nature OR that depicts a subject related to the programmatic element, composer, background, or individual theme of the chosen music selection. **Submitted entries that are neither abstract nor clearly draw relation to the chosen music selection or composer may be disqualified from consideration for awards.** The relation to the music selection or composer may be subtle but must be reasonably identifiable to the panel of judges without additional explanation. For information about the music selections, see MUSIC SELECTIONS (No. 4).
- ****NO GUNS**** Submitted pieces of artwork containing guns, images of guns, or depicting guns or gun violence in any way will be disqualified. Please, no exceptions.

4. MUSIC SELECTIONS:

- Schools and families are invited to conduct a combination art and music lesson to prepare students to create an individual interpretation of one of the following music selections from *Scheherazade*:

Grades K—5:

Option One: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Story of Sinbad the Sailor*

Option Two: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Story of the Kalendar Prince*

Option Three: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Festival at Baghdad*

Grades 6—12:

Option One: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Sultan and Scheherazade*

Option Two: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Story of the Young Prince and the Princess*

Option Three: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *Sinbad's Ship Breaking on the Rock Cliffs*

- Please review the Music Selection Information PDF with your students before they begin creating contest entries. This document is available at: <https://www.symphonyleaguesa.org/ptm-info>
- A YouTube recording of the Paint to Music Contest selections is linked below:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=5L5RanalQVSVxQIHkCC_n7kJcw_NC1HG

5. MEDIA:

- Paint, crayon, pencil, marker, collage, assemblage, chalk or pastels (sprayed with fixative) may be used.
- Art on the unprinted backside of recycled paper is acceptable.
- Artwork on translucent paper will NOT be accepted.
- **IMPORTANT:** Artwork with very light coloring and/or uncolored “blank” areas do not show up well when photographed and projected. Please encourage students to fill the whole page or canvas (without leaving “blank” areas) and “color in” completely, as faint colors tend to wash out when projected.

6. SIZE:

- Submitted artwork must be no smaller than 8.5” x 11” and no larger than 12” X 18” for judging purposes and in order to be considered for inclusion in the concert slide show.



7. IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Jan. 10, 2026** - Drop-Off Day for artwork, or last day artwork can be received if mailed, see below.
- **Feb. 4-6, 2026** – Pick-Up Days for artwork and awards and Student Concert dates.
 - **Please be sure to distribute students' award letters immediately upon receiving them.**
 - If you are not attending a Student Concert, it is your responsibility to collect your art and prizes by contacting Joan Whiteley. Please see CONTACT INFORMATION below.

8. IDENTIFICATION OF ENTRIES:

- **Each entry must have the following LEGIBLE identification information on the BACK top left corner**

1. School Name _____
2. Student Name _____
3. Grade _____
4. Classroom Teacher _____
5. Main Contact Person _____
6. Entry Selection _____
(Select ONE of the below for your grade span):

Grades K—5:

Option One: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Story of Sinbad the Sailor*

Option Two: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Story of the Kalendar Prince*

Option Three: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Festival at Bagdad*

Grades 6-12

Option One: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Sultan and Scheherazade*

Option Two: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *The Story of the Young Prince and the Princess*

Option Three: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov | *Sinbad's Ship Breaking on the Rock Cliffs*

For **artwork identification labels**, please **DO NOT** use paper clips. Instead, please affix with light glue or tape.

- The identification label should be affixed to the REVERSE TOP LEFT corner of the artwork. Do **NOT** attach it to the front of the artwork. Please also **do NOT use paper clips for identification labels**.
- A **template** for artwork identification labels containing the information above is available at:
<https://www.symphonyleaguesa.org/ptm-info>
- Please note that there should not be any students' names or inappropriate words on the front of the artwork. Essentially, there should be nothing written or attached to the front of the artwork except the artwork itself.

9. PARENTAL PERMISSION:

- **SIGNED PERMISSION FORMS MUST BE CLIPPED TO THE BACK SIDE OF EACH ENTRY.**

- A Contest permission form can be found at:
<https://www.symphonyleaguesa.org/ptm-info>

- **DO NOT PASTE or TAPE the Permission slip to the entry.**

Rather, please paper clip permission slips to the reverse side of each entry. The winners' copies will remain on file, and if taped, may rip the art work when removed.

For **parental permission forms**, please **DO NOT** use tape or glue. Instead, please paper clip the form to the back side of each entry.



- **IF APPLICABLE, A “BLANKET” SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CAMPUS PERMISSION FORM ALREADY SIGNED BY A PARENT MAY BE USED.** In this case, a copy of the signed form **MUST** accompany each piece of artwork.
- **SUGGESTION:** If you plan to have students participate in Paint to Music, please send permission slips home early in the school year so as to allow plenty of time to get them back before the deadline.

10. SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

- Please submit **no more than 30 entries per participating grade level**, pre-selecting as necessary.
- Entries should be submitted in art envelopes or a folder constructed with poster board.
- A **2025-2026 Paint to Music Entry Form** should accompany each packet of entries from a school or group. This form can be found at: <https://www.symphonyleaguesa.org/ptm-info>
- ***If submitting in-person:***
 - **Drop-off location(s) & procedure for artwork submitted in-person:**
 - Submission packages may be dropped off **10:00 am - 6:00 pm ONLY** on **Sat., Jan. 10, 2026** at the following locations (any location may be used):
 - ✓ Steinway Piano Gallery
1201 N LOOP 1604 W, STE 107
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258
[Put in marked plastic bin just inside main entrance. Note that you should have everything ready to turn in before entering the Gallery as there will not be space provided fill out forms, etc. indoors]
 - ✓ Alamo City Moms
512 Heimer
San Antonio, TX 78232
[Put in marked plastic bin on covered porch and recover with lid]
 - ✓ Home of Joan Whiteley, SASL Past President
350 NATALEN
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209
[Put in marked plastic bin on front porch and recover with lid]
(210) 445-5447 (cell)]
 - Bins will also contain blank Entry Forms.
- ***If submitting by postal mail or delivery service:***
 - Please follow all instructions above for in-person submission.
 - Package(s) of artwork must be **received** no later than **Sat., Jan. 10, 2026**
 - **Please mail only to the address below:**
Joan Whiteley
PAINT TO MUSIC
350 Natalen Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78209



- Please include the following information on the outside of the package:
 - School Name
 - Contact person
 - Phone number AND email address
- **If any of the information is missing, the pieces of art may be disqualified from consideration.**
- The final deadline for all submitted artwork is **Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm.**
- No late entries will be accepted either by mail or by drop-off. Please, no exceptions.

11. WINNING ENTRIES:

- Awards will be given according to the following:
 - EACH SCHOOL GROUP (public/private/or home school) with **at least twenty-five (25) TOTAL** submitted entries will be guaranteed a first, second, and third place winner.
 - EACH SCHOOL GROUP (public/private/or home school) with two (2) or more participating grade levels AND **at least twenty-five (25) submitted entries PER GRADE LEVEL** will have each grade level judged separately and will receive at least a first, second, and third place winner for each grade level.
 - **Entries from home schools may be clustered together by similar grade level** for the purpose of judging and awarding prizes. Clustered groups will not exceed a total of twenty-five (25) submitted entries, with each cluster receiving at least a first, second, and third place winner.
- Winner announcements will be sent via email to each school contact after Judging Day (Jan. 17, 2026).
- Selections from the winning entries will be showcased at the Alamo City Arts Connect: Student Concert Series on Feb. 4-6, 2026.
- Winners' medals and prizes will be distributed, along with the return of all submitted art, at the concert that your school or group has reserved to attend.
- Artwork and awards not claimed at the concerts will be held until **April 30, 2026**, before being recycled unless prior arrangement is made for alternative pick-up.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The San Antonio Symphony League cannot be responsible for any damaged or lost entries.
- Photographs, digital images, and prints of the winning artwork will be the sole property of the San Antonio Symphony League.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION:

- For any questions, concerns or for more information about the Contest, contact Joan Whiteley at 210-445-5447 or education@symphonyleaguesa.org.