



September 2023

Dear Music Educator:

The Grand Rapids Symphonic Band is sponsoring their annual Youth Soloist Competition to find the state's finest high school wind or percussion soloist. This opportunity is available to any student who is currently enrolled in a secondary band program in the state of Michigan. **In addition to performing a solo with the band, the winning student will also receive at least a \$1000 scholarship made payable to the university/college that they will attend or toward attending a summer music camp such as Blue Lake, Interlochen, etc.** The youth soloist will appear in concert with the Grand Rapids Symphonic Band, conducted by Barry Martin, on **Sunday, March 17th, 2024** at Grandville High School at 3:00 p.m

Students must select a solo that has a **readily available band accompaniment**. As the student's music teacher, we ask that you assist them with this. Students must submit a preliminary recording that includes the entire selection not to exceed 15 minutes. Recordings with accompaniment are encouraged, but not required. Submissions are to be emailed with a recording in mp3 format, a copy of the solo and application form in PDF format. **Applications, sheet music and recording must be received by December 1st, 2023.** All recordings become the property of GRSB and will not be returned. A committee will evaluate the preliminary round and every effort will be made to notify the finalists of the results no later than **December 11th, 2023.** The finalist(s) selected may be asked to perform a live audition at Grand Valley State University on **Tuesday, December 19th at 7p.m.** **Each finalist MUST bring his or her own accompanist for this final audition.** The winner will be selected that evening and notified at the conclusion of the live auditions. The winner must be available for a minimum of two, possibly three, Thursday evening rehearsals in February and March.

As a music educator, please consider personally inviting your best students to apply for this fantastic opportunity. **All submissions should be clearly marked with the applicant's name and have the application form completely filled out. Poor quality recordings or incomplete applications will not be judged. Late applications will not be considered.**

The board of directors and conductor Barry Martin are very excited about providing this unique opportunity to showcase the talent of Michigan's youth!

Sincerely,

Krystal Lesky, Chair GRSB Youth Soloist Competition
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