Education

Oklahoma City Orchestra League
Music Competitions – An Enduring Legacy

Oklahoma City Philharmonic
Group 3
Music Competitions
an enduring legacy

Carol McCoy, President-elect
Oklahoma City Orchestra League
Education

Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild
Arts & Academic Study Group

Huntsville Symphony Orchestra
Group 3
Oklahoma City Orchestra League

Founded: 1948  
Membership: 250

Mission:
Educate, enrich, and inspire the community by supporting orchestral music and promoting volunteerism.
Oklahoma City Orchestra League

Competition Goal:

Encourage young musicians to continue to pursue their musical studies by recognizing and showcasing them in an educational and rewarding environment.
The Beginning – 1948

- Collaboration: violinist Merle Buttram and Women’s Committee of Oklahoma City Symphony (now OCOL)
  - Underwritten by Ms. Buttram and her family

- Goal: encourage more high school students to continue music studies
A Decade Later – 1958

- OCOL took over project
- Competition expanded
Fast Forward ... 1970’s

- Violin instructor and husband established string awards for elementary students
KEITH STRINGS

Elementary students competition
And more recently...

- Success of string competition generated interest
- Underwriters obtained
- Competition for elementary and high school students in six divisions
Competition Divisions

High School:
- Buttram Strings (individual and quartet)
- Carver Concerto (brass, woodwinds, percussion, harp)
- Haire Classical Guitar
- Meinders Piano

Elementary:
- Keith Strings
- Gilliam Piano
Today

- 100 applicants
- $10,000 in awards
- Applications online - $25
- One-day competition for all six divisions
COMPETITION DAY

Bass School of Music
Oklahoma City University

- Performance and rehearsal rooms donated
- Cost to OCOL: housekeeping and piano tuning
- Pianos provided
The Process

- Competitions Chair
  - Obtains venue
  - Updates web page
  - Works with co-chairs and OCOL office
  - Chair can serve only two years
The Process, continued

- 2 Co-Chairs per Division
  - Review applications
  - Establish repertoire
  - Venue layout and logistics
  - Communicate with students, and set schedule
  - Obtain judges
  - Communicate with underwriters
  - Obtain volunteers for their division

Co-Chairs continue each year – small learning curve
COMPETITION DAY

Waiting to Perform
COMPETITION DAY

Judges:
• Minimum honorarium
• Select winners

Maestro & ED:
• Select soloist for OKC Philharmonic

Co-chairs:
• Announce winners
• Award medals
AWARDS

Medals to winners

Certificates to all participants

Cash awards at Winner’s Concert
MEINDERS PIANO COMPETITION

Performed at the Winners’ Concert
HAIRE
CLASSICAL
GUITAR

Performed at
Winners’ Concert
Buttram Strings & Quartet Contestants
VOLUNTEERS

60 Total
Once & Done
Food!!
## The Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judges Fees</td>
<td>$3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, Postage</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage (Judges)</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>$1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prize money</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2016

- Revenue: $13,600
- Expenses: $13,300
- Net: $300
Changes Made

- Clarify age/grade requirements
- Evaluated and revised repertoire
- Confirm performance time of contestants
Challenges & Roadblocks

**Challenges**
- Students competing in multiple divisions
- Accompanists assisting multiple contestants

**Roadblocks**
- Youth multi-activities at expense of music
- Underwriters continued support
Will This Model Work for You?

- Start small
- Recruit and gain support from music teachers
- Obtain underwriters with monetary awards
- Provide opportunities to showcase winners
1948 - 2016

An Enduring Legacy
Oklahoma City Orchestra League

Music Competitions – An Enduring Legacy

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Does your community have young artist competitions? If yes, how have they evolved over the years?

   If not, is this something your organization could instigate?