Culver City Symphony Parness Competition

Application – 2026/27

Established as the Maurice K. Parness Youth Fund – December 1974.
Sponsored by the SoCal Symphony Society and the Culver City Symphony Orchestra.

The live-round competition is November 1, 2026
at Salit Conservatory of Music 1001 W. Riverside Dr., Burbank, CA 91506.

Junior: 12 and under / Intermediate 13-17 / Senior 18-25
Contestant shall be a non-professional musician with no representation and a resident of, or studying in, Southern California. All acoustic instruments are eligible.

Repertoire shall include one movement of standard concerto or comparable solo selection with available accompaniment. Selections are limited to 10 minutes for Junior and Intermediate divisions and 15 minutes for the Senior division. Contestants are encouraged to perform from memory and may select a portion of music to best display their performance skills. Contestants will provide their own accompanist.
Repertoire should have orchestral accompaniment easily attainable.

How to apply:

A completed application form, non-refundable entry fee $75.00, and an "unlisted" link to an original YouTube audition selection shall be emailed to: **competition@culvercitysymphony.org**
YouTube audition selection shall be created with neither auditory/studio enhancements nor edits, introduced by the contestant stating that the selection is "for the Culver City Parness Competition", and submitted with an "unlisted" YouTube link.
Fee may be paid through our secure Symphony website or by a check sent to the SoCal Symphony Society. Be sure to add "Symphony Parness Competition 2026/27 entry fee" to memo line when making payment.
Final live-round contestants shall be notified of their in-person audition time by October 19, 2026.
Requests for specific audition times may be considered. Afternoon concert attire is requested for the live round.
Applicants will be added to our Symphony mailing list to receive notification of future Orchestra events.
All decisions of the judges are final.

One winner in each age division shall receive an honorarium and may receive an invitation to perform with the Orchestra or Ensemble. **Winners and other performers may be asked to perform a work other than the one performed for the competition.** Winners shall provide a biography, photograph and *Permission to Use Your Photograph/Image* prior to performance – and may also have an interview posted on our website.

Deadline for submission entry is October 12, 2026.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ email address: _____
Date of birth: ____/_____/____ Age as of January 1, 2027: _____
Division (Circle one) Junior Intermediate Senior
Instrument: _____
Selection Title, Composer, Movement: _____
Teacher's Name and email: _____

Proudly serving our community since 1964.
P.O. Box 4846 Culver City, CA 90231
Symphony email: info@culvercitysymphony.org
Parness Competition email: competition@culvercitysymphony.org

Culver City Symphony Parness Competition Mission, History, and Future

Parness Competition Mission Statement

Inspiring the Future by Honoring the Past

To inspire young children to explore the potential of orchestral music.

To inspire young musicians with the opportunity to hone their performance skills with their professional Community Orchestra.

To inspire the members of our community to become active supporters of their Orchestra, in part, by sharing the vibrant history of the Culver City Symphony Orchestra.

Parness Competition History

In the Fall of 1974, a youth fund was started in memory of Maurice K. Parness, a long-time friend, sponsor, and member of the Board of Directors of the Marina del Rey Symphony Orchestra.

The cost of our Youth Program Competitions and solo appearances of our talented youth has been helped by this fund and administered by the Symphony Society since its inception in 1974.

The first Marina del Rey-Westchester Symphony concert, presented with winners of the 1974 Youth Auditions, was held on December 7, 1974 at the Westchester High School Auditorium.

Culver City Symphony Orchestra History

Founded from a string workshop offered on Monday nights at 7pm at Westchester Adult School in the Fall of 1964 for $4.00 per semester, the Westchester String Symphony played its first

concert on March 1, 1965 at the Westchester High School Auditorium - which would remain our concert home for the first two decades.

In February 1974, the Symphony extended its community roots and evolved as the Marina del Rey-Westchester Symphony, continuing to serve the musical interests of our community.

In 2000, the Symphony became the Culver City Symphony Orchestra. In this same year, we began our summertime relationship with Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey - playing several summer concerts under the stars each year as the Marina del Rey Symphony.

Throughout our history, we remain a community-based organization devoted to serving the musical needs of our ever-growing community of families within our family of communities.

Our Orchestra's baton has been held by:
Our founder George Berres (1964-1975), Frank Fetta (1976-2021),
Steven Allen Fox (2023-present) and Clyde Mitchell (2023-present).

We continue to honor our past by looking forward to our future.