

Request for Proposal

May 1, 2026

1. Overview

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras (FSYO) invites proposals from emerging and established composers for one of two commissioned works to celebrate its 70th Season: one full symphony orchestra work and one jazz big band work.

These compositions will also be featured as part of *Composing Our Tomorrow: A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Youth Orchestra Division of the League of American Orchestras*.

2. Commission Opportunities

A. Orchestra Commission

- Instrumentation: Full Orchestra
- Length: 5 to 7 minutes
- Commission Fee: \$3,000 to \$4,000, commensurate with experience

B. Jazz Band Commission

- Instrumentation: Standard Big Band
- Length: approximately 3 to 5 minutes
- Commission Pay: \$2,000 to \$2,500, commensurate with experience

Applicants may apply for one or both opportunities.

3. Project Timeline

RFP Process

- Issued: May 1, 2026
- Proposal Deadline: June 1, 2026
- Composer Selection: July 6, 2026

Jazz Band Commission Timeline

- Composition Period: July 6, 2026 to November 1, 2026
- Draft Score Due: November 1, 2026
- Editing Period: November 2, 2026 to December 14, 2026
- Final Score & Parts Due: December 15, 2026

- Premiere Performance: April 24, 2027 (FSYO 70th Season Jazz Finale Concert)

Orchestra Commission Timeline

- Composition Period: July 2026 to April 2027
 - Draft Score Due: May 2027
 - Editing Period: May 2027 to June 2027
 - Final Score & Parts Due: July 2027
 - Premiere Performance: October 2027 (St. Luke's Concert Series, Date TBA)
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4. Scope of Work

Selected composers will:

- Compose an original work for the designated ensemble
 - Provide a draft score by the stated deadline
 - Submit a final engraved score and complete set of parts
 - Be available for limited revisions based on ensemble needs
 - Participate in virtual or in-person collaboration and/or rehearsal support, if requested
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5. Required Score Statement

All final scores must include the following wording:

*“Commissioned and premiered by Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras for
Composing Our Tomorrow: A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Youth
Orchestra Division of the League of American Orchestras.”*

6. Eligibility

- Open to composers of all backgrounds and experience levels
 - Composers may be teens, emerging artists, or established professionals
 - Applicants do not need to be alumni of FSYO, however preference may be given to those with a connection to the organization or local community (e.g., alumni, faculty, local artists, etc.)
 - Strong consideration will be given to composers with experience writing for student ensembles
 - Applicants must be able to meet all deadlines
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7. Proposal Requirements

Applicants must email **Ray Moscarella** at rmoscarella@fsyo.org to receive a link to a DropBox Folder where all materials can be uploaded. All application materials must be submitted via the provided link.

Required materials include:

- Statement of Interest (maximum 250 words) describing interest in this opportunity
 - Resume or CV
 - Commission Selection: Indicate whether applying for the Orchestra Commission, Jazz Commission, or both
 - 3-5 audio recordings (approximately 1 minute each) of past works, accompanied by corresponding scores (PDF format)
 - *Please Note: If submitting a proposal for both opportunities, please submit 3-5 audio recordings for each type of ensemble.*
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8. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic quality and originality
 - Experience and suitability for student ensembles
 - Clarity and completeness of submission materials
 - Alignment with FSYO's educational mission
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9. Submission Instructions

All materials must be submitted by **June 1, 2026**. Applicants must express their interest by emailing rmoscarella@fsyo.org with the subject line "**FSYO Composer RFP – [Applicant Name]**". Upon receipt, applicants will be provided with a link to a DropBox Folder where they can upload all required materials. All submissions must be completed through the provided DropBox folder by the deadline. Late or incomplete submissions may not be considered.

10. About FSYO

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras (FSYO) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that has served Central Florida for over sixty-nine years. Founded in the 1950s by Rollins College music

professor Alphonse Carlo, FSYO began as free Saturday string classes and grew into a full youth orchestra program, presenting its first public concert in 1959.

Today, FSYO serves over 300 students across eight ensembles, including three symphonic orchestras, two string orchestras, a percussion ensemble, and two jazz bands. Additional programs include the Stringmania Summer Camp and national and international tour opportunities. FSYO is committed to providing high-quality musical training and meaningful performance experiences for young musicians.

11. Terms & Conditions

FSYO reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals
 - Modify timelines as needed
 - Collaboratively work with selected composers on revisions
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12. Rights & Recording

- FSYO retains the right to premiere and record the commissioned works.
- Composers retain copyright unless otherwise agreed.
- FSYO may use recordings for promotional and archival purposes.