

2026 Young Brass Soloist Competition

Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Lanier Middle School

2600 Woodhead at Westheimer, Houston, TX 77098



Celebrating 25 years of British
Brass Banding in Houston

The Houston Brass Band is pleased to announce its 11th Annual Young Brass Soloist competition for brass-playing students residing in the greater Houston area.

Prizes will be awarded in each division, and the Band will invite the first-prize winner of the Senior Division to perform a solo with the Houston Brass Band in concert during the 2026/2027 season.

Competition Guidelines

1. **Eligibility Requirements:** The competition is open to brass-playing students in the seventh through twelfth grades. Brass instruments include trumpet, cornet, flügelhorn, Eb or F horn, baritone, euphonium, trombone, bass trombone, Eb/Bb Bass, and tuba.
2. **Divisions:** There will be first, second, and third-place prizes in each division.
 - Junior Division (grades 7-8)
 - Senior Division (grades 9-12)
3. **Repertoire:** One piece of music per entry, no longer than seven minutes for the Junior Division or ten minutes for the Senior Division. Appropriate cuts may be made for solo literature longer than the allotted time.
4. **Competition Rules:** Competitors will be responsible for providing their own piano accompanist; however, with prior notice, HBB can provide an accompanist for a fee of \$75.00. A piano will be available. Unaccompanied performances are welcome.

Competitors must provide one original copy of the sheet music for the judges to view during the competition. Photocopied music will be permitted, and the use thereof will constitute a representation by the competitor that the usage complies with all applicable copyright requirements.

The Competition Coordinator is authorized to make binding decisions regarding conformity to competition guidelines and rules.

5. **Judging:** Judging the Senior Division will be several professionally recognized brass players selected from greater Houston. Judging the Junior Division will be members of the Houston Brass Band. Tiebreaker Procedure: In the event of a tie during the judging process, the panel of judges deliberates to break the tie, often focusing on the overall performance quality.
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7. **Performance:** The first-prize winner of the Senior Division will be featured with the Houston Brass Band in concert at an agreed-upon venue during the 2026/2027 season. The solo performed in the competition will be the same work performed with the HBB unless the performer and the brass band's music director agree on a different piece.

8. Scholarship Awards:

| Division | First place | Second Place | Third Place |
|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Junior | \$200 | \$100 | \$50 |
| Senior | \$300 | \$150 | \$75 |

The first-prize winner of the Senior Division will receive the Bridget Jensen Award for Excellence and be featured with the Houston Brass Band in concert at an agreed-upon venue during the 2026/2027 season.

9. **Application:** Completed applications must be postmarked or received online by Sunday, April 19, 2026, and include the non-refundable entry fee. Applications received after April 19, 2026, must include an additional \$10 late fee. Applications postmarked or received after April 20, 2026, may not be accepted.

All communications with entrants will be made to the email address supplied on the entry form. Please make all checks payable to Houston Brass Band.

10. **Competition Dates/Times:** The competition will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Lanier Middle School 2600 Woodhead, Houston, Texas. Both divisions will run concurrently. Each competitor will receive an email confirming report and performance times at least one week in advance.

For questions regarding the competition, please contact Competition Coordinator Bart O'Connor at bart@houstonbrassband.org.

The Young Brass Soloist competition is supported by Houston Brass Band's educational outreach program.