Latino Arts Strings Program Annual Classical Guitar Youth Competition 2027: Guidelines and Judging Procedure

Youth Competition Fee

- Registration fee is $40 per participant; payment is due in full at the time of registration
- Includes admission to the competition, master class, workshops, and one student admission ticket to the Festival Concert
- Parents and family members must purchase their concert tickets online or at the door. Please note that if you wait, the concert may be sold out.
- Register for the Guitar Festival and Youth Competition online HERE
- Application deadline is ***February 01, 2027***
- To request a registration waiver, please email Jone Ruiz at jruiz@bgcsedu.org.
- Those who are not competing but interested in observing the Master Class and the Workshops will get a unique chance to experience the festival by reserving their spot in advance for only $20. Register for Master Class viewing only .

Competition Information (The 2027 LASP Guitar Festival is in person. No online competition will take place)

- **Date:** Saturday, February 20th, 2027, starting at 8:00 AM
- **Place:** Latino Arts, Inc. Auditorium in the United Community Center, 1028 S. 9th Street Milwaukee WI 53204
- **Age limit:** Youth ages 8-18 – Younger students who meet the technical requirements are welcome. Intermediate and Advanced Levels will be decided by repertoire selection. Selections should reflect the number of years a student has been playing.
- **Award ceremony:** Saturday, February 20th, 2027
- Announcement of the winners in both divisions will take place Saturday, February 20th,2027 during the Guitar Festival Concert.
- All youth competitors will receive a participation certificate.
- All participants will perform with the Festival Guitar Orchestra in the Evening Concert. Music will be sent ahead of time. Please prepare diligently.
- First place winners will be featured soloists, opening for the guest artists.
- All participants are required to remain for the evening concert to perform with the Festival Orchestra.
- All participants will take part in a variety of workshops designed specifically for the Festival.
- Parents plan to have your child be part of the Festival for the entire day. Please do not make any other plans during that day. This will allow all participants to gain the full benefits of the Festival.

Competition Guidelines

- **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PERFORM ON A NYLON STRING CLASSICAL GUITAR**
- All pieces to be performed from memory
- Competitors exceeding the time limit will be stopped without penalty
- Tuning will not be included in the timing
- There will be only one round
- First Prize winners from Intermediate and Advanced levels will be featured in the Guitar Festival Concert
- Winners must be present at the award ceremony and perform in the concert in order to receive the prize.
- The judges reserve the right to withhold First Prize should the level not be met
- All decisions by the judges are final

Judging Procedure

- Judges will evaluate each competitor in several categories, and they will vote their choice of the three (3) winners for each division.
  - Technique – Clarity and articulation of notes
  - Musicality and Phrasing – the use of dynamics and tone color

- Tone Production and Projection
- Rhythm – Observance of note values

- Judges will vote for First, Second, and Third Prize winners. No ties will be allowed. Should a tie result, judges will discuss and re-vote on the tied competitors to determine who will advance to the higher level.
- All decisions by the judges are final.

Division Level Repertoire Requirements

Intermediate Division

Intermediate Division competitors must play two contrasting pieces **not to exceed 5 minutes** in total. One of the two contrasting pieces must be a piece by a Latin American composer. The second piece is selected by the participant and must reflect a level of difficulty equal to the Royal Conservatory Guitar Grade 3-5 or Suzuki book 2 to 5.
Suggested repertoire by Latin American composers:

Leo Brouwer *Estudios sencillos (I-X)*	**Rodrigo Riera** *Four Venezuelan Pieces*
Ernesto Cordero *Modern Times*	**Maximo Diego Pujol** *Suite del Plata*
Juio Sagreras *Maria Luisa: Mazurka*	**Walter Heinze** *Concordancias*

Advanced Division

Advanced Division competitors must play two contrasting pieces **not to exceed 10 minutes** in total. One of the two contrasting pieces must be a piece by a Latin American composer. The second piece is selected by the participant. However, must reflect a level of difficulty equal to the Royal Conservatory Guitar Grade 6-10 or Suzuki book 6 to 9.

Example of Composers and Repertoire in the Advanced Level:

Heitor Villa-Lobos *Cinq préludes Douze études* *Suite populaire brésilienne*	**Manuel Ponce** *Tres canciones populares mexicanas* *Sonata Mexicana Scherzino Mexicana*
Leo Brouwer *Tres apuntes*	**Agustín Barrios** *Danza paraguaya*
Cordero, Ernesto *Tres Cantigas Negras*	**Carlos Guastavino** *Sonata No. 1*
Hector Ayala *Serie Americana*	**Abel Carlevaro** *Preludios americanos*
Antonio Lauro *Suite Venezolana*	**Jorge Morel** *Sonatina*