

## North American Saxophone Alliance

### 2025-2026 Collegiate Jazz Competition:

#### *A Celebration of Coltrane's Centennial*

March 12-15, 2026 – Ohio State University

1<sup>st</sup> Prize

\$1,500 in cash and/or merchandise

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

\$1,000 in cash and/or merchandise

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

\$750 in cash and/or merchandise

The First Place Prize winner will be featured on the Winners' Recital at the 2026 NASA Biennial Conference.

#### I. Eligibility

- 1.) Contestants must be no older than 26 as of April 15, 2026.
- 2.) All contestants must be current members of the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) as of December 1, 2025.
- 3.) First Place Prizewinners from previous NASA Jazz Competitions may not enter.

#### II. Application Guidelines

- 1.) The deadline for submission of applications, **video recordings** and fees is December 1, 2025. All application materials must be submitted online via the NASA website. A direct link to the system will be provided as soon as it is made available.
- 2.) Contestants must submit an entry fee of \$65. All payments must be made through the online application by December 1, 2025.
- 3.) Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- 4.) The contestant's birth date must be verified at the competition site with the contestant's driver's license, birth certificate, or passport. Any contestant who does not show proof of age or is older than 26 years of age as of April 15, 2026, will be disqualified.
- 5.) There are three rounds of the NASA Collegiate Jazz Competition: a recorded Preliminary Round, a live Semi-Final Round and a live Final Round. **The deadline for the recorded Preliminary Round is December 1, 2025.** The live Semi-Final Round and live Final Round will be held in conjunction with the 2026 NASA Biennial Conference March 12-15, 2026.
- 6.) Due to the logistical difficulties of preparing facilities, dates listed in the application for Semi-Finals, Finals Rounds, and Winners Recitals are subject to slight change.

#### III. Preliminary Round – **15 minutes (maximum!)** of recorded material may be submitted.

THE PRELIMINARY ROUND WILL CONSIST OF A RECORDED **VIDEO** AUDITION. **AUDIO AND VIDEO COMPONENTS OF THE RECORDING MUST BE UNEDITED**, and all recordings must be submitted on Acceptd with the initial application materials by the deadline, December 1, 2025. The recorded music must be performed with live rhythm section accompaniment. Play-a-long formats are not acceptable. Technical guidelines for the audio recording will be posted when the Acceptd application webpage becomes available.

The recording should contain three selections **in the following order**, and the combined duration of all three performances **must not exceed 15 minutes**.

- 1.) *Mr. PC* By Coltrane. A minimum tempo of HALF note = 120 is required, and applicants must include at least four choruses of soloing.

2.) A Ballad of the applicant's choice. Applicant should play the melody, and include at least 1 full chorus of ballad-tempo improvisation. (It is not required to fully state the melody again after soloing, and applicants should be cognizant of the duration of each performance when deciding on the form of their arrangements.) The rhythm section must maintain ballad tempo throughout the performance. Tempo must fall between quarter-note = m.m. 58-72.

3.) A medium-tempo standard of the applicant's choice. Tempo must fall between quarter-note = m.m. 120-145. Include at least 2 choruses of improvisation.

#### IV. Semi-Finals Round – 18 minutes

Up to 10 saxophonists will be invited to perform in the Semi-Finals. The Semi-Finals will be held in March of 2026 in conjunction with the 2026 NASA Biennial Conference in Columbus, Ohio. A professional rhythm section for rehearsals and performances will be provided by NASA. Each semi-finalist will perform a new three-selection, 20-minute (maximum) program that includes the following requirements:

1.) A performance of *Equinox* by Coltrane in **CONCERT Db MINOR**. Tempo should fall between quarter note + 116-124. Applicants should include at least four choruses of improvisation.

2.) An uptempo standard of the applicant's choice.

3.) A standard ballad of the applicant's choice. Applicants should include at least one full chorus of the melody and at least one full chorus of improvisation.

**Applicant's selections for their Semi-Final round repertoire may not repeat any repertoire from the preliminary round. Performance of original compositions is not permitted.**

#### V. Finals – 20 minutes

Up to 6 saxophonists will advance to the final round. The final round will take place during the 2026 NASA Biennial Conference. A professional rhythm section for rehearsals and performances will be provided by NASA. Each finalist will perform a four-selection 25-minute program that includes the following requirements;

1.) A ballad performance of *Naima* by Coltrane. Applicants should include (at least) one full statement of the melody and (at least) one full chorus of improvisation. Tempo must fall between quarter-note = m.m. 50-65.

2.) An up-tempo performance of *Impressions* by Coltrane. Tempo must equal or exceed quarter note = m.m. 230.

3.) A medium-tempo piece of the applicant's choice. Tempo must fall between quarter-note = m.m. 120-155.

**Final round repertoire may not include any repeated selections from the preliminary and semi-final rounds. Performance of original compositions is not permitted. The order of the selections performed will be decided by each finalist.**

#### VI: Winner's Concert – length TBD.

#### VII. Video Submission Guidelines

1. Applicants' recordings must only include performances of selections **from memory, and without any use of "lead-sheets" or written "charts" by the applicant. Thus, applicants may not use a music stand (of any sort) or sheet music, and are not to be reading in any way at any point during the video.** (Accompanists may use charts, as needed.)

2. Previously pre-recorded live performances of any kind are not acceptable.

3. Special effects and transitions of any kind are not allowed.

4. Do not edit within a selection.

5. Make sure that the camera captures a good quality image.

6. Make sure that the audio quality, balance, and feed to the camera is good.

7. Ensure that the video orientation is correct.

8. Multi-camera recordings are not allowed. Use a single camera in a fixed position and aimed straight at the saxophonist from the waist up. Do not move (pan) the camera.

9. The saxophonist must be clearly visible at all times.

10. The video background behind the performer **may not** change for any reason.

11. Include 3-5 seconds of silence before the beginning of each selection.

## VIII. General Guidelines

1. Semi-Finalists will be announced via the application system. All communication with the semi-finalists will be handled via email communications, therefore, it is the contestants' responsibility to make sure they can receive email communications.
2. The Winners' Recital will feature the First Place Prize Winner in the Collegiate Jazz Competition and will be held during the North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference. **Winners must be able to perform at the Winners' Recital.**
3. Eligible contestants may also enter the Classical Solo Competition and the Saxophone Quartet Competition, but they must submit a separate application and separate entry fee for each category entered.
4. All fees and dues are non-refundable.
5. All expenses, including lodging and transportation to and from the competition, are the sole responsibility of the contestants.
6. A minimum of 20 entries is required to hold this competition. Entry fees will be refunded if the competition is cancelled.
7. Contestants may perform on soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, or any combination of these saxophones during both the preliminary and final rounds.
8. Professional musicians will judge both the preliminary audition recordings and the live round performances. Semi-Finalists will be evaluated solely on their Semi-Final live round performance and Finalists will be evaluated solely on their Final live round performance.
9. Participants in the live rounds may be responsible for covering a fraction of their accompanists' fees for rehearsals and performances.
10. Questions may be directed to the Chair of the Jazz Competition Committee, Dr. Rahsaan Barber via e-mail at: [rahsaan.barber@gmail.com](mailto:rahsaan.barber@gmail.com)