

**North American Saxophone Alliance**  
**2025-2026 High School Jazz Competition:**  
**Celebrating Coltrane's Centennial**

**March 12-15, 2026 – Ohio State University (Final Round)**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
\$750 in cash and/or merchandise  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
\$500 in cash and/or merchandise  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize  
\$250 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 between 15-18 as of April 15, 2026.
- 2.) All contestants must NOT be enrolled full-time in a college, university, or other post-secondary school.
- 3.) All contestants must be current members of the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) as of December 1, 2025.

**II. Application Guidelines**

- 1.) All application materials must be submitted online via the NASA website. The deadline for submission of applications, **video recordings**, and fees is December 1, 2025. A direct link to the system will be provided as soon as it is made available.
- 2.) Contestants must submit an entry fee of \$40. 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, is younger than 15 years of age, or older than 18 years of age as of April 15, 2026, will be disqualified.
- 5.) There are two rounds of the NASA High School Jazz Competition: a recorded Preliminary Round, and a live Final Round. The deadline for submissions to the recorded Preliminary Round is December 1, 2025. The live Final Round will be held in conjunction with the NASA Biennial Conference at Ohio State University 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**

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 with the initial application materials by the deadline, December 1, 2025. A live rhythm section is strongly preferred for the recorded music, but use of playalongs from Jamey Aebersold CDs or learnjazzstandards.com are permissible. However, use of iReal Pro's backing tracks is not allowed. Technical guidelines for the audio recording will be posted when the webpage becomes available.

The recording should contain three selections in the following order, and the combined duration of the three

recordings **must not exceed fifteen minutes**:

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

2.) *A standard AABA-form ballad of the applicant's choice.* At ballad tempo/treatment, State the full melody, solo over AAB and conclude with a statement of the melody in the last A section of the second chorus. The rhythm section must maintain ballad tempo throughout the entire performance (with no double-time), and the tempo must be between quarter-note = m.m. 56-75.

3.) *A medium-tempo standard of the applicant's choice.* Include at least two choruses of improvisation, and perform the tune within the tempo range of quarter-note = m.m. 120-145.

#### IV. Finals – **NOT TO EXCEED 25 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, 30-minute (maximum) program that includes the following requirements (in any order):

- 1.) Naima by John Coltrane
- 2.) A "straight-ahead" medium tempo standard of the applicant's choice. (Tempo must fall between (QN =) 120-155.
- 3.) Impressions by John Coltrane (A minimum tempo of Quarter Note = 220 is required.)
- 4.) A "Latin"/Afro-Cuban/Caribbean and/or Brazilian piece of the applicant's choice.

**Final round repertoire may not include any repeated selections submitted during the preliminary round. Performances of original compositions are not permitted.**

#### VI. Video Submission Guidelines

1. Applicants' recordings must only include selections performed from memory. Applicants must perform without any use of "lead-sheets" or written charts. **Thus, applicants may not use a music stand (of any sort) or sheet music, and are not to be reading at any point in their submissions.** (Accompanists may use charts, if 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. Allow 3-5 seconds of silence before the beginning of each selection.

#### VII. General Guidelines

1. Finalists will be announced publicly and through the portal system. All communication with the finalists will be handled by email, 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 High School Jazz Competition and will be held during the 2026 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference. **The Winner must be able to perform at the Winners' Recital during the conference.**
3. Eligible contestants may also enter the High School Classical Solo Competition, but they must submit a separate application and separate entry fee.

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. Finalists will be evaluated solely on their Final live round performance.
9. Participants in the live round may be responsible for 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, at [rahsaan.barber@gmail.com](mailto:rahsaan.barber@gmail.com).