

North American Saxophone Alliance 2026 Saxophone Quartet Competition

The Ohio State University, March 12-15

1st Prize

\$1,500 in cash and/or merchandise

2nd Prize

\$1,000 in cash and/or merchandise

3rd 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. The average age of the ensemble members must not exceed 26 as of April 15, 2026.
2. Each member of the ensemble must be a current member of the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) as of December 1, 2025.
3. Quartets that have been First Place Prizewinners at a previous NASA Quartet Competition may not enter the 2026 NASA Quartet Competition. A quartet containing more than two members of a previous First Place Prizewinning quartet also 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.
2. The ensemble must submit an entry fee of \$120. All payments must be made through the online application by December 1, 2025.
3. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
4. The contestants' birth dates must be verified at the competition site with each contestant's driver's license, birth certificate, or passport. Any contestant who does not show proof of age will be disqualified.

5. There are three rounds of the NASA Quartet 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 as part of the 2026 NASA Biennial Conference.
6. Due to the logistical difficulties of preparing facilities, dates listed in the application for Semi-Final Rounds, Final Rounds, and Winners Recitals are subject to slight change.

III. Preliminary Round

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 via the online portal with the initial application materials by the deadline, December 1, 2025. For all videos submitted, all performers must be clearly visible at all times. Technical guidelines for the recordings will be posted when the online application webpage becomes available. The recording should contain complete performances of:

1. Elliot Del Borgo - *Quartet* (Movement II and III only)
2. Additional music of the ensemble's choice.

The total amount of performance time for the preliminary round is not to exceed 15 minutes. Ensembles will NOT be penalized for submissions with too little or too much recorded time; however, adjudication will not consider more than 15 minutes of recorded audition time.

IV. Semi-Finals

Up to 20 saxophone quartets will be invited to perform in the Semi-Finals. The Semi-Finals will be held on TBD in conjunction with the 2026 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference. Repertoire requirements are as follows:

1. Bobby Ge - *To Speak as One*
2. Additional music of the ensemble's choice. Choice music cannot be repeated between live rounds; HOWEVER choice music from the taped preliminary round may be used in a live round. **All semi-finalists must provide one original copy of the score(s) for the choice repertoire. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.** Semi-finalists are NOT required to bring original copies of the required repertoire.

IMPORTANT – SEMI-FINALISTS WILL HAVE 20 MINUTES ON STAGE ONLY! This timing includes walking on and off stage. If performers go over their allotted time, they will be stopped by a proctor. There will be no penalty for being stopped by the proctor.

V. Finals

Up to 6 quartets will be advanced to the final round. The final round will take place on TBD in conjunction with the 2026 NASA Biennial Conference. Repertoire requirements are as follows:

1. Kevin Day – *Metrofusion*
2. Athena Triumphant – *Stacy Garrop*
3. Additional music of the ensemble's choice. Choice music cannot be repeated between live rounds; HOWEVER choice music from the taped preliminary round can be used in a live round. **All finalists must provide one original copy of the score(s) for the choice repertoire. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.** Repertoire from the semi-final round may not be duplicated in the final round. Finalists are NOT required to bring original copies of the required repertoire.

IMPORTANT – FINALISTS WILL HAVE 30 MINUTES ON STAGE ONLY! This timing includes walking on and off stage. If performers go over their allotted time, they will be stopped by a proctor. There is no penalty for being stopped by the proctor.

VI. General Guidelines

1. Semi-Finalists will be announced via the online application system. All communication with all competitors will be handled via email therefore all contestants must be able to receive email communications throughout the entire competition. It is the responsibility of the competitors to make sure they can receive communications via email.
2. No changes in personnel will be allowed once the entry materials have been received by NASA.
3. The Winners' Recital will feature the First Place Prizewinner in the Quartet Competition and will be held at the 2026 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference.
4. Choice repertoire in all rounds may be programmed as complete multi-movement works or individual movements from multi-movement works.
5. Required repertoire may only be used in the rounds in which they are required. Choice music cannot be repeated between live rounds; HOWEVER choice music from the taped preliminary round can be used in a live round.
6. In both live rounds, the judges reserve the right to request specific movements and/or excerpts of each performer's program due to time constraints. This could include judges asking contestants to stop within a movement and skip to a different section.

7. Eligible contestants may also enter the Solo Competition and Jazz Competition, but they must submit a separate application and separate entry fee for each category entered.
8. All fees and dues are non-refundable.
9. All expenses, including lodging and transportation to and from the competition, are the sole responsibility of the contestants.
10. Quartets may use any combination of saxophones (i.e. SSSS, AATB, SSAB) but must play the required repertoire as SATB.
11. 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.
12. A minimum of 15 entries is required to hold this competition. Entry fees will be refunded if the competition is canceled.
13. Questions may be directed to the Chair of the Competition Committee, Gabe Piqué, via email at Gabriel_Pique@baylor.edu.