



HARP ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL 2025

Dallas/Forth Worth Metroplex, TX — June 2025

The purpose of the American Harp Society Ensemble Festival is to encourage musical collaboration, the building of community through harp ensembles, and to inspire harpists of all ages and levels to advance their ensemble performance skills. By hosting a national event during which ensembles perform programs, the AHS Ensemble Festival offers an opportunity for participants to receive valuable feedback and ratings from preeminent harpists and adjudicators. The American Harp Society Harp Ensemble Festival is presented in conjunction with the Twenty-Sixth AHS Summer Institute 2025.

FESTIVAL DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

The Festival is divided into six (6) Divisions:

Division 1: Primary Division

Up to age 12 as of June 1, 2025

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 2: Middle School/Junior High Division

Ages 12-15 as of June 1, 2025

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 3: High School Division

Ages 14-19 as of June 1, 2025

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 4: Mixed Pre-College Division

Up to age 19 as of June 1, 2025

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 5: Collegiate Division

All members must be enrolled in a collegiate program as of Spring 2025

20 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 6: Open Division

Any age

20 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Ensembles in each Division may participate in one or more of the following five (5) Categories:

- Harp Duet (two harps all playing individual parts)
- Harp Trio (three harps all playing individual parts)
- Harp Quartet (four harps all playing individual parts)
- Medium Ensemble (maximum of 12 harpists, players may double and/or divide parts)
- Large Ensemble (more than 12 harpists, players may double and/or divide parts)

APPLICATION & ENTRY FEES

Applications open on November 15, 2024 and are due by February 1, 2025.

Entry fees are due by March 1, 2025. Entry fees are non-refundable.

- Small Ensembles (Duet, Trio, Quartet) = \$20 per ensemble
- Medium Ensemble = \$40 per ensemble
- Large Ensemble = \$60 per ensemble

REPERTOIRE

All programs are free choice. Each program must include at least one work originally composed for harp ensemble. Transcriptions will not count as works that are 'originally composed' for harp ensemble.

PERFORMANCES, RATINGS, & COMMENTS

Ensembles will perform once before a panel of adjudicators and live audience in the division and category in which they are registered.

Ensembles will receive written comments on their performance as well as ratings.

Ratings shall be awarded as follows: I (Superior), II (Excellent), & III (Good).

Ratings will be based on precision of ensemble playing, blend of sound, quality of articulation and tone, ensemble intonation, and musical interpretation of the score.

The performance of the ensemble shall be the only factor considered when determining ratings. Ensembles will not receive rankings (first, second, third place, etc.) within a division or category.

Multiple ensembles can earn the same rating within the same division and category.

Participants in any Division may elect to receive written comments only, with no rating. In doing so, that ensemble will not be eligible for Outstanding Ensemble Performance Award consideration.

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE AWARD

The Outstanding Ensemble Performance Award represents the attainment of superior musicianship by an ensemble as demonstrated in their performance at the AHS Ensemble Festival. Within each division and category, Outstanding Ensemble Performance Awards may be conferred at the discretion of the adjudicators. Ensembles receiving the Outstanding Performance Award will be invited to perform at the Closing Concert and Ceremony without remuneration. Excused absence from this performance must be requested in advance.

RULES & REGULATIONS

A complete list of rules and regulations may be [found here](#).