



AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY IN DALLAS
HARP ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL 2026

Texas Christian University in Fort Worth
March 14, 2026 9:00am - 5:00pm

The purpose of the AHS in Dallas Harp 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. The Ensemble Festival offers the unique opportunity for harp ensembles to perform their program for a live audience, and to receive valuable feedback and ratings from preeminent harpists and adjudicators. The AHSD Harp Ensemble Festival is co-sponsored by the Texas Christian University School of Music. Co-chairs are Dr. Laura L. Brandenburg, Alison Read, Jennifer Solis, and Kela Walton.

FESTIVAL DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

The Festival is divided into six (6) Divisions:

Division 1: Primary Division

Up to age 12 as of March 14, 2026

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 2: Middle School/Junior High Division

Ages 12-15 as of March 14, 2026

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 3: High School Division

Ages 14-19 as of March 14, 2026

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 4: Mixed Pre-College Division

Up to age 19 as of March 14, 2026

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 2026
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 and Entry Fees are due by February 1, 2026.

Entry fees are non-refundable.

- Small Ensembles (Duet, Trio, Quartet) = \$20 per ensemble
- Medium Ensemble = \$30 per ensemble
- Large Ensemble = \$40 per ensemble

REPERTOIRE

All programs are free choice. Each program must include at least one work originally composed for harp ensemble. A transcription will not count as a work that is '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 entered.

Ensembles will receive written and verbal 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 in Dallas Harp Ensemble Festival. Within each division and category, Outstanding Ensemble Performance Awards may be conferred at the discretion of the adjudicators. Only ensembles receiving all I (Superior) ratings from each of the adjudicators will be eligible for Outstanding Ensemble Performance Award consideration.