

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

2027 Music Educator Awards

Please read before submitting application materials

NOMINATIONS DUE

Dec 1, 2026

NOMINEE MATERIALS DUE

Feb 1, 2027

HONOREES ANNOUNCED

May 2027

Who can nominate an educator?

Principals, colleagues, parents, community members, arts organizations, and anyone else familiar with an educator's work.

Can educators nominate themselves?

We recommend that an administrator or someone knowledgeable about your work submit the nomination on your behalf.

Can the nominator nominate more than one educator?

Yes. Please submit each nomination separately, with specific information about that educator.

Can an application be saved to come back to it later?

Yes. Click "SAVE" at the bottom of the form to return to it later.

What happens after an educator is nominated?

The nominee will be contacted and invited to complete the next steps. Each nominee will submit:

- A nominee form, including resume, video, websites, or photos documenting the nominee's work
(max 5 attachments; videos no longer than 10 minutes)
- One supporting recommendation from someone familiar with their work

All materials are due by **February 1, 2027**. Applications will not be reviewed unless all required materials are received.

Can the nominee submit more than one supporting recommendation?

No. Only one recommendation is accepted per nominee. We encourage nominees to choose the person who can offer the most meaningful and specific perspective on their work.

How are applications evaluated?

The Symphony's Education and Community Engagement Committee reviews applications using the [Educator Award Rubric](#).

Do the nominee, as well as the nominator and recommender, need to address every part of the rubric?

The rubric is intended to help guide the application and evaluation process. The strongest applications provide specific examples and information that speak to the criteria outlined in the rubric.

What can nominees expect if they move forward as finalists?

The committee will schedule a classroom observation and interview with each finalist in March. Both will be filmed and shared with the committee for evaluation using the rubric.

Is it acceptable to use AI in the application?

We do not prohibit AI tools, but encourage thoughtful and sparing use. The strongest applications are personal, specific, and written in the applicant's or recommender's own voice, and heavy reliance on AI can lose the details that show an educator's unique impact. If the authors of the application use AI, we encourage them to review and personalize the final submission so it reflects the author's own experiences, observations, and voice.

When will recipients be announced?

Honorees will be announced in May and recognized at a North Carolina Symphony concert during the 2027/28 season.

Additional questions?

Email the North Carolina Symphony at education@ncsymphony.org.