



2026 Sonora Bach Festival Teacher Letter

March 1, 2026

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Dear local music teachers,

We are very pleased to announce the return of the Sonora Bach Festival for the 2026 season. As a music teacher in the Central Sierra Mother Lode, you'll be interested in the plans for our exciting, annual Youth Concert. This event is a wonderful opportunity for you to provide an inspiring challenge for your students who are dedicated to working hard as they grow as young musicians. We are dedicated to making the audition and concert a rewarding and encouraging experience.

The dates for this year's event are as follows:

Application due date: September 11, 2026

Auditions: September 20, 2026

Concert: October 11, 2026

As in any endeavor of this sort, the rewards are significant. The process of application, audition and performance serves as a significant milestone for young students. The auditions are adjudicated by three experienced adult musicians; their feedback provides valuable advice and insight into student's performances. Musicians selected to perform at the concert will be awarded incentive scholarships in the amount of \$100. The finalists concert provides it's own reward for the students in teaching them to set and achieve performance goals, and share the joy of music with their friends and family. The Youth Concert is always a highly attended event in our community — our hills are alive with the music of our young, hardworking people!

Please contact us with any questions at (209) 591-3445 or sonorayouthbachfestival@gmail.com. The youth concert features some of the very best young musicians in our area who have dedicated hours to the development of their music education. We hope you will consider giving your students this opportunity to audition.

Sincerely,

Makena Benz & Shiloah Fenn
Youth Bach Festival Co-Chairs