



Review and Contest Guidelines
Wainwright Music Building, Meredith College
3800 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC
October 25, 2026

The 42nd annual Review and Contest will be an in-person event for Elementary and Middle/High School divisions and a virtual event for all Undergraduate and Graduate divisions. Elementary and Middle/High School Contest participants will perform in person at Meredith College on October 25. Undergraduate and Graduate Contest participants will submit video recordings of their performances. Review and Adult Review participants may perform in person or submit video recordings. Participants in divisions 7, 8, Undergraduate 5, Undergraduate 6, Undergraduate 7, Undergraduate 8, and Graduate must perform with live piano accompaniment, if their pieces are written with piano accompaniment.

The RAFA Flute Fair, on Saturday, November 7, will be an in-person event at Highland United Methodist Church, 1901 Ridge Road, Raleigh. Participation in the Student Showcase will be required for Contest winners in the Elementary and Middle/High School divisions; winners in these divisions will not be eligible to receive scholarship money if they do not participate in the Student Showcase. Participation in the Student Showcase will be optional for Contest winners in the Undergraduate and Graduate divisions; winners in these divisions will be eligible to receive scholarship money regardless of whether they participate in the Student Showcase. Each Contest winner who participates in the Student Showcase is required to perform with live piano accompaniment, if his or her piece is written with piano accompaniment.

PURPOSE: The Review and Contest is an annual event sponsored by RAFA to further the education of RAFA member flutists. It is an opportunity for flutists of all levels of playing ability to perform for professionals who provide them with written comments concerning strengths and weaknesses.

ELIGIBILITY: A participant may enter the Review, Adult Review, or Contest. Participants (students and adults) and their teachers (for grades 12 and below) must be current RAFA members who have paid their 2026-2027 dues. The registration fee and RAFA dues may be paid together.

REVIEW and ADULT REVIEW: A participant entering the Review (for students) or Adult Review performs two pieces for written evaluation of ability and performance by two judges. This is an excellent tool for individual growth, and students can use the Review as preparation for future Contests. Participants in the Review and Adult Review are not eligible for prizes of scholarship money and do not participate in the Student Showcase at the RAFA Flute Fair. Each Review or Adult Review participant may perform in person at Meredith College on October 25 or may submit video recordings.

CONTEST: Student members of RAFA may enter the Contest. A student is eligible for the Contest if he or she attends elementary, middle, or high school or is at least a half-time student in college or graduate school. Each contestant performs two pieces for written evaluation of ability and performance by two judges and competes against other flutists in the same division and grade level for the opportunity to participate in the Student Showcase during the RAFA Flute Fair and to receive prizes of scholarship money.

- Contestants compete with others within each division and are grouped by school grade level as follows: Elementary (school grades 1-5), Middle/High School (school grades 6-12), college Undergraduate, and college Graduate.
 - Elementary and Middle/High School Contest participants will perform in person at Meredith College on October 25.
 - Undergraduate and Graduate Contest participants will submit video recordings of their performances.
- A winner is declared for each four to six contestants; some divisions will have multiple winners. At the judges' discretion, "No winner" may be declared for a division. Contest winners will be announced by the end of the day, Sunday, October 25.

- Each winner is expected to play one of his or her Contest pieces in the Student Showcase during the RAFA Flute Fair on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at Highland United Methodist Church in Raleigh. **Each Contest winner who participates in the Student Showcase is required to perform with live piano accompaniment, if the piece is written with piano accompaniment.**
 - Winners in Elementary and Middle/High School divisions will not be eligible to receive scholarship money if they do not participate in the Student Showcase
 - Winners in Undergraduate and Graduate divisions will be eligible to receive scholarship money regardless of whether they participate in the Student Showcase.

DIVISIONS: There are four Elementary divisions (for students in school grades 1-5 only), eight Middle/High School divisions (for students in school grades 6-12), four college Undergraduate divisions, and one college Graduate division. A contestant may enter in the division applicable to his or her grade level in school and appropriate to his or her ability, regardless of age or length of study. A contestant who has been declared a winner in any previous year's Contest must enter in a division higher than the one in which he or she was a winner. However, if a winner is advancing from an Elementary division to a Middle/High School division, he or she may enter in the corresponding Middle/High School division. For example, a contestant who was declared a winner in Elementary division 3 as a fifth-grader may enter Middle/High School division 3 as a sixth-grader. If a contestant has been declared a winner in Elementary division 4 but has not yet entered school grade 6, he or she may enter Middle/High School division 4 or higher. However, if a contestant has been declared a winner in Middle/High School division 8 but has not yet entered college, he or she may not enter any Undergraduate or Graduate division. A Review or Adult Review participant may enter in any division, regardless of age, grade level in school, previous wins, or the divisions in which he or she has entered in previous Reviews or Contests.

MUSIC: A repertoire list for each division is available at www.rafaflutes.org/contests/review-and-contest/. A participant must select pieces only from the list for 2026. Each division has one required piece that all participants in that division must perform, and each participant performs a second piece of his or her choice from the list. The publishers and editions specified on the repertoire list are suggestions; the participant may use different editions from the ones specified. Unless the music is in the public domain and printed from a public domain site such as IMSLP or flutetunes.com, the flutist and accompanist must use original music, although the use of photocopies to facilitate page turns is allowed.

- Each in-person participant must provide one copy of his or her music for the judges to view together; this can be the piano part or a photocopy of the flute part. Measures on this copy must be numbered. Judges will keep photocopies to be destroyed following Review and Contest.
- Each virtual participant will be requested to submit scanned copies of his or her music with numbered measures for the judges' reference. This can be the piano score or the flute part.

PERFORMANCE: A participant in division 1 through 6 (Elementary or Middle/High School) in the Review or Contest does not perform with an accompanist, regardless of whether his or her pieces are written with piano accompaniment. **A participant in division 7, 8, Undergraduate 5, Undergraduate 6, Undergraduate 7, Undergraduate 8, or Graduate in the Review, Adult Review, or Contest is required to perform with live piano accompaniment if his or her pieces are written with piano accompaniment.** The participant must observe the instructions for repeats and cadenzas and any other performance instructions indicated in the repertoire lists; all "Da Capo"s should be observed. Memorization is not required. The participant should prepare the entire piece unless the repertoire list specifies otherwise.

VIDEO RECORDING REQUIREMENTS:

- All contestants in divisions Undergraduate 5, Undergraduate 6, Undergraduate 7, Undergraduate 8, and Graduate must submit video recordings. Review and Adult Review participants in any divisions may submit video recordings in lieu of performing in person.
- A participant in division Undergraduate 5, Undergraduate 6, Undergraduate 7, Undergraduate 8, or Graduate must perform with live piano accompaniment if his or her pieces are written with piano accompaniment.

- The video must show the participant's face, hands, and flute at all times. If the piece includes accompaniment, the video must show the pianist.
- The participant's face and flute and the pianist must fill the frame of the video as completely as possible.
- Use one of the following video formats: .mov, .mpeg4, .mp4, .avi, .wmv
- Do not submit 4K video files.
- To avoid submitting files that are excessively large, use video quality no higher than 1080p. If possible, keep the file size below 5 GB. The sound quality is more important than the video quality.
- Record the required piece and the choice piece as two separate files. Label each file as follows:
 - *Firstname_Lastname-Req*
 - *Firstname_Lastname-Choice*
- Participants are requested to submit scans or photos of their sheet music. Label each file as follows:
 - *Firstname_Lastname-Title or composer*
- Video recordings must be submitted through the submission link, which will be provided to the participants' teachers, no later than 11:59 p.m., **Tuesday, October 20, 2026.**

JUDGING: Two judges observe each participant. The judges complete evaluation sheets on which they make comments that include suggestions for improvement and compliments of strong performance points. The judges work independently on their evaluation sheets and then confer to determine the division winners.

- For in-person evaluations, paper evaluation sheets will be delivered to the participants' teachers during the week after Review and Contest.
- For virtual evaluations, the evaluation sheets will be delivered electronically to the participants' teachers during the week after Review and Contest.

FEE: \$20.00 for the Contest or \$15.00 for the Review. **Late payments will *not* be accepted.**

REGISTRATION: The deadline for registration is **Friday, September 25, 2026**. A participant may register and pay fees online at www.rafaflutes.org/contests/review-and-contest/ or by mailing a paper registration form (available at www.rafaflutes.org/contests/review-and-contest/) and check. **Online registrations must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date; paper registration forms must be postmarked no later than the deadline date. Late registrations will *not* be accepted.**

If you have any questions about these guidelines, contact Review and Contest Coordinator Kathy Hancock (hancockkathy@msn.com).