Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program

2027-2028 Essay Prompt and Directions

www.aso.org/tdp

*We want to get to know you as both a musician and a person. You may respond by writing an essay (**300–500 words**) or creating a video (**3–5 minutes**). Whichever format you choose, please address all parts of the prompt below.*

Essay or Video Prompt:

Tell us about your musical journey so far. How did you get started, what inspires you to continue learning and growing as a musician, and what experiences have shaped you along the way? Share a musical accomplishment you're proud of, challenges or obstacles you've encountered, and how you've responded to them.

Looking ahead, what are your musical goals, and how do you hope the Talent Development Program (TDP) will help you achieve them? We want to learn about your experiences, your commitment to studying classical music, and the determination you've shown in continuing to pursue your musical goals.

Your typed essay or video should:

- Address all parts of the prompt, including your musical background, what inspires you, meaningful musical experiences, challenges, and future goals.
- Be clear and organized so your story is easy to follow.
- Include personal stories and specific examples rather than simply listing facts or accomplishments.
- Show your interest in music, your commitment to learning, and your desire to continue growing as a musician.
- Explain how you hope the Talent Development Program (TDP) will support your musical development and help you reach your goals.

Tips:

- Be yourself. We want to hear your voice and learn about your story.
- Include details and specific examples that help us understand your experiences.
- Stay within the word or time limit so you can share your story clearly and thoughtfully.
- **If submitting a video:** Begin by stating your name, and speak clearly at a comfortable pace.

Submission Instructions:

- Review your work before submitting to make sure it is complete and clearly represents you.
- **Written essays:** Type your essay and save it as a PDF using the following file name format: LastName_FirstName_essay (*Example: Smith_Avery_essay.pdf*).
- **Video essays:** Save your video using the file name format LastName_FirstName_essay (*Example: Smith_Avery_essay*) and upload it to YouTube with the visibility setting set to Unlisted.
- In the designated section of the application, upload your essay PDF or provide the link to your YouTube video.

How to Upload Your Videos to YouTube:

1. Record your video using your phone, tablet, or camera.
2. Name your file using the format above: LastName_FirstName_essay
3. Upload your video to YouTube:

    - Sign in to YouTube.
    - Select **Create → Upload video**.
    - Choose your video file.
    - Set the visibility to **Unlisted** so only people with the link can view it.

4. Submit your video link by copying the YouTube URL and pasting it into the designated field in the application form.