

2017 Virtuoso Festival: Rules, Guidelines, and Agreement

Overview

The Seattle International Piano Festival (SIPF) is proud to present for the third time the *Virtuoso Festival* for local and regional pianists, violinists, and chamber musicians featuring works from the Romantic to the current era. Participants of any age or nationality may participate. This competitive event was created to provide performing opportunities for those who wish to share their love of Romantic, Impressionistic, and Modern repertoire (for solo piano, violin, and chamber music with piano) and to provide performers with constructive feedback from performing and teaching masters. Participants will receive educational evaluations by performing for adjudicators, and a chance to receive medals and certificates.

This festival sets forth narrowly defined age groups so that they may be fairly judged, and generously decorated. Those familiar with previous years, should note a number of changes, including international participation, the addition of impressionistic and contemporary styles, the return of the *Grand Prix*, and the division of general groups into single- or multiple-work entries.

The return of a *Grand Prix* division for more ambitious and competitive pianists also provides greater opportunities, including the chance to be awarded medals and participation in the master classes of the 2017 Seattle Int'l Piano Festival with esteemed guest artist-teachers. The *Grand Prix* will be offered every two years on odd years only, including the 2017 Festival.

Festival Date

The Virtuoso Festival takes place at Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart at 4800 139th Ave SE in Bellevue all day on Sunday, May 21, 2017. Those participants taking part should plan to be available to perform at any time during the morning, afternoon, and early evening hours.

Eligibility

The following age performance divisions and age categories outlines all forms of participation within the *Virtuoso Festival*.

Solo Division (piano or violin), ***Single Work*** (choose any one Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary solo work up to the maximum allotted time)

- age 8 and under—up to 5 minutes of music. Fee: \$45
- ages 9 to 10—up to 6 minutes of music. Fee: \$50
- ages 11 to 12—up to 9 minutes of music. Fee: \$60
- ages 13 to 14—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$70
- ages 15 to 16—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$70
- ages 17 to 18—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$70
- collegiate—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$70
- adults, age 19 or older—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$70
- professional—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$70

Solo Division (piano or violin), ***Multiple Works*** (choose any two or more Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary solo works up to the maximum allotted time, two of which must represent contrasting periods at minimum within the three stylistic eras; see above for age divisions)

Chamber Music Division (all performers must qualify within the same age category; choose one or movements from a single chamber work within the Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary eras)

- ages 13 and under—up to 10 minutes of music. Fee: \$25 per participant

- ages 14 to 18—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$30 per participant
- collegiate—12 minutes. Fee: \$30 per participant
- adults, age 19 or older—12 minutes. Fee: \$30 per participant
- professional—12 minutes. Fee: \$30 per participant

Grand Prix Division (piano only; choose one Contemporary solo work AND one solo work by Frederic Chopin, one of which must be a major work of no less than 6 minutes in length and of relatively significant technical demands)

- ages 12 to 18—two works (see below) up to 18 minutes. Fee: \$100

To qualify within a given age category, participants must be the defined age as of May 21, 2017. There is no set limit regarding the number of students that a single teacher may submit. Likewise, teachers are in no way required to provide any volunteer assistance or pay any fee in order to submit students. Participants may apply multiple times if they wish to compete in more than one division.

For the purposes of division definition, *Chamber Music* includes works for one piano with strings, woodwinds, or brass written for two (minimum) to five (maximum) players. Note that due to the facility and set up time, this definition excludes percussion instruments. Literature for two or three pianists at one piano (four- or six-hands) is also included within the definition of *Chamber Music*. Works for two pianos are not admissible. All members of the ensemble must be of the same age category to be considered. In the case of music for piano four-hands, pieces must be original compositions for this configuration, rather than transcriptions or arrangements (such as Brahms' string quartets arranged for piano, 4-hands). Likewise, arrangements from the solo concerto repertoire, or other soloist-with-orchestra genres are not considered 'Chamber Music.'

Repertoire

Participants are free to select any work or works for participation in the *Solo* or *Chamber Music* divisions that are conventionally considered within the romantic, impressionistic, and contemporary era. The SIPF advisory board reserves the right to refuse any selections that may challenge the prevailing understood boundaries of this style period. If you have concerns or questions regarding your repertoire selection, you may write with the subject heading "Repertoire Ruling" to info@seattlepianocompetition.org. Please allow 3-5 days for a response.

Works performed must be complete movements (no cuts or excerpts allowed). Examples include the entire first movement of Schumann's *Sonata in G minor, Op. 22* or all variations of Brahms' entire set, *Variations on an Original theme, Op. 21, No. 1*. Miniatures, including études, scherzi, dances, and the like, may be chosen singly, completely, or among a subset of selected favorites and need not be presented entirely in their cyclic form. Portions of movements or indivisible collections, such as only the Prelude of a Prelude and Fugue by Mendelssohn, or the exposition section of the sonata by Samuel Barber, are not acceptable. Solo participants can perform more than one work. All solo division participants will be divided into the single work or multiple work sub-groups. However, multiple work performers must choose from at least two contrasting style periods within Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary styles. All chosen works regardless of participation group must collectively fit within the allotted time of the respective participant's division and age group. Failure to select repertoire that fits within the time limit allotted one's age category may jeopardize eligibility to participate.

Solo and *Grand Prix* division participants must perform works strictly from memory. *Chamber Music* division participants, as well as adult soloists, are exempt from performing by memory.

No change in repertoire is allowed after the application has been submitted. Please indicate an accurate timing.

Grand Prix Division

Pianists entering the *Grand Prix* division must select two (and only two) works for solo piano — one work by Frédéric Chopin, and one Contemporary work. At least one of the two works must be a major work of no less than 6 minutes in length and contain relatively significant technical demands. Two virtuosic works are admissible; however, two lyrical or *cantilena* style works are inadmissible. The SIPF advisory board reserves the right to refuse a selection that challenges the boundaries of what might be considered *virtuosic*. Both works must fit within 18 minutes.

A gold, silver, and bronze medalist will be selected. In addition, one or more participants will be selected to perform during the master classes with one of the international jurors during the *2017 Seattle International Piano Festival & Competition* taking place between in September or October at Benaroya Hall.

No change in repertoire is allowed after the application has been submitted. Please indicate an accurate timing.

Applications

Applications are only available online for completion at <http://www.seattlepiano.competition.org/nw-festivals/application/virtuoso-online-form/>. In order to be considered for participation, applications must be filled out correctly and completely and electronic payment successfully made with a valid credit card. Incomplete applications may be assessed an additional \$10 fee to be collected during check-in on May 21. Please refer frequently to the SIPF website for updates, errata, adjudicator information, as well as results.

The application process begins in February and closes **Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 11:59 pm**. Participants may check their assigned performance time(s) shortly after May 15 on the [itinerary page](#) on the SIPF website. Participants must reserve the entire day for the event. No special scheduling requests will be accommodated. Participants may not swap or change their time slots once these have been assigned. Please do not inquire about time slots before May 16.

The application fee is nonrefundable. Note that due to space limitations, applications for each festival will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Music Scores

All participants must provide original scores for all programmed works. The use of unauthorized photocopies is strictly prohibited. Participants must provide numbered measures, marked directly on the score along the left margin of each staff system. Chamber Music participants must provide an additional original score (no parts, please) for the judge, also with measures numbered. Music that was never in print (handwritten manuscripts) are not admissible without a note from the composer or holder of the copyright granting permission for the participant to use photocopies. Computer print-out music in the public domain or otherwise legally licensed and obtained must be accompanied by the “*Statement of Legal Use of Music Score Copy*” attached at the end of this document, signed and dated by an adult.

Day of the Festival

All participants should arrive at least 20 minutes prior to their assigned performance time to get oriented. More detail on pre-performance procedures will be included in the [itinerary page](#) on the SIPF website which will be updated by May 16. Participants are encouraged to obtain directions online to get to Forest Ridge and allow for plenty of time to navigate to the site. A

campus map may be found [here](#). Performances will be held both at the Lee Theatre (building 600) and the chapel of Sacred Heart Center (building 700). Be sure to bring all music scores with measures numbered.

No warm-up space will be provided at the festival site. Instrumentalists are expected to bring their own music stands. Time will be added for instrumentalists to tune and prepare their seating. Instrumentalists must also refrain from playing outside the performances spaces. Failure to keep the spaces near the performance areas silent will result in jeopardizing eligibility to participate.

Please enter and exit performance spaces only between other participants' performances or during applause. Door monitors may or may not be placed in order to prevent coming in or out at inappropriate times, therefore the SIFP relies on its participants to help enforce this rule. Participants should dress appropriately.

Each participant, his/her family, friends, and guests, and each teacher/coach must accept any juror's decision as final and unappealable. Attendees of the festival may not approach, engage with, or debate any aspect of the decision with any juror. Failure to adhere to this rule may disbar the participant and/or all students of a participant's teacher from future such festivals and competitions. Refrain from speaking with an adjudicator prior to performance, and keep at least twelve feet in distance from the adjudicator's table.

Video or recordings made must be conducted by family members or friends of the performing participant. No such recordings are allowed of other performers from whom one does not have explicit permission to do so. Flash photography is also prohibited. To avoid distractions, all participants and their guests must silence all electronic devices that produce flashing lights or sound, including personal audio players, chimes on cameras, mobile phones, and portable game devices.

Prizes and Results

After the conclusion of a given category, participants of the *Solo* and *Chamber Music* divisions are invited to return to hear the judges' decision. Within each category, a gold, silver, and bronze medalist, along with an indeterminate number of honorable mentions will be awarded. The judges also reserve the right to add other awards of note, such as "special promising talent", "best performance of a work by a particular composer" and other similar awards, and reserve the right to split or tie top medalist awards. Among the prizes are medals and certificates. All participants receive certificates of completion.

All participants must pick up adjudicators' comment sheets and award materials during the day of the festival, which are distributed immediately after the close of each group on the lower level of Sacred Heart Center (building 700). Any lost and found items, including awards, adjudicator comment sheets, music scores, clothing, or other items may will be recycled. Awards are distributed within twenty minutes immediately following the close of a given participant's category. Participants may find their respective time slots on the [itinerary page](#) on the SIFP website so that they may plan accordingly.

Note that the SIFP advisory board reserves the right to divide exceptionally large groups of participants within the *solo division* into smaller ones.

All results are final and unappealable.

Application Checklist

Before filling out the application:

- Read all rules, guidelines, and agreement found on the following page thoroughly
- Understand and identify the appropriate division (solo - single work, solo - multiple works, chamber music, or grand prix) and age category (participants must be of given age on May 21, 2017)
- Ensure that the participant's instructor (if applicable) is aware of one's intent to participate, and obtain his or her verbal or written consent
- Collect the information of the selection(s) one wishes to perform (with complete title, composer first and last name, movement title or tempo indication, opus or catalogue numbers when available, and accurate timing in minutes and seconds)
- Note one's fee according to the division and age category and have a valid credit card ready to make payment at the end of the application process

After these steps have been secured, proceed to the [application form](#), found on the SIFP website.

AGREEMENT, RELEASE, AND WAIVER

A. AGREEMENT

I, the PARTICIPANT or the PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN of the AGE 17 OR YOUNGER PARTICIPANT (hereinafter collectively referred to as "PARTICIPANT"), hereby comply fully and in good faith with all regulations, rules, and procedures as outlined in the 2017 Virtuoso Festival Rules, Guidelines, and Agreement. I understand that the Seattle International Piano Festival (hereinafter referred to as "SIPF") reserves the right to prohibit from future activities any PARTICIPANT and/or the teacher or coach of the PARTICIPANT for failure to adhere to said rules. The participant agrees to treat the organizers, volunteers, and adjudicators of the 2017 Virtuoso Festival with respect, and promises not to harass or malign any such individuals connect with or about the event's activities. Furthermore, the participant hereby affirms to the fact that all information entered in conjunction with the participant's application is true and accurate. The participant also promises to adhere to the rules and guidelines set forth in pages 1 through 4 of the "2017 Virtuoso Festival Rules, Guidelines, and Agreement" document (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement").

B. RELEASE

I, the PARTICIPANT, hereby waive, release, and grant to and for the benefit of the SIPF and/or its assignees, any and all rights that I may have to any recordings, videography, and/or photographs made by or for the SIPF of any performance or event organized or sponsored by it. I understand and agree that by virtue of this waiver, release, and grant of rights, the SIPF will have the right to make full and unrestricted use of such recordings, videography, and/or photographs, including without limitation, in advertisements, commercial ventures, and promotions and for the sale or lease of same, without any fee or other compensation owed to the participant.

C. WAIVER

I, the PARTICIPANT, fully and in good faith intending to be bound thereby, do hereby promise not to initiate any claim, lawsuit, or other legal action, pertaining to any action or omission by the SIPF relating directly or indirectly to the music competition as to which application is herewith being made. This promise is made as a condition of the application, and in consideration for the SIPF's processing and evaluation of the application. This promise constitutes an acceptance and agreement by the PARTICIPANT that, for example, decisions by competition judges are final and unappealable, and the physical spaces of the competition/festival venues are reasonably safe and appropriate for their intended purposes. (However, this promise is not in any respect limited to the above two examples.) I intend that this promise be fully binding upon the PARTICIPANT, as well as upon heirs, successors, and assignees of the PARTICIPANT. This promise applies to the application process, the competition, and all events under the purview of the 2017 Seattle International Piano Festival and its associated activities and/or events.

D. APPLICATION FORM SIGNATURES

The participant promises to adhere to a rules and guidelines set forth in pages 1 through 4 of the Agreement. By clicking the "I agree to the terms and conditions below" selection on the electronic application for the 2017 Virtuoso Festival, the participant fully affirms his or her legal ability and willingness to enter into this agreement, and that the above statements in this agreement are true, and legally binding upon the participant. Clicking to agree constitutes a legally binding e-signature, and carries the same legal weight as a signed signature. Furthermore, you are agreeing to the following:

- 1) This Agreement supersedes any prior written or oral Agreement, contains the entire Agreement, and there are no other promises or conditions in any other Agreement whether oral or written;
 - 2) This Agreement may be modified or amended by the SIPF;
 - 3) In the event that the SIPF requires the services of an attorney in connection with enforcement of this Agreement, or in the event that litigation is commenced, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees;
 - 4) If any provisions of this Agreement are held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable. If a court finds that any provision of this Agreement is invalid or unenforceable, but that by limiting such provision it would become valid and enforceable, then such provision shall be deemed to be written, construed, and enforced as so limited;
 - 5) Failure of the SIPF to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver or limitation of the SIPF's rights to subsequently enforce this Agreement;
 - 6) This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state of Washington and venue shall lie in King County; and
 - 7) This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, all of which shall be deemed to be an original and constitute a single Agreement. An electronic transmission bearing any person's acceptance of the terms and conditions shall have the same force and effect as the original of this Agreement bearing such person's signature.
- By clicking the "I agree to the terms and conditions below" selection on the electronic application for the 2017 Virtuoso Festival, the participant fully affirms that the above statements in this agreement are true, and legally binding upon the participant.

STATEMENT OF LEGAL USE OF MUSIC SCORE COPY

To the organizers of the Seattle Int'l Piano Festival:

Included for submission today is a copy of the official score associated with the entry of participant, _____
name of performing participant. The following information pertains to the attached score copy:

Publisher of Score Copy: _____

Name of Printed Volume (if available): _____

Date of Publication: _____

Source of copy (website, if obtained online): _____

To the best of my knowledge, the attached copy violates no international copyright or intellectual property license or agreement. I agree to accept full legal responsibility for the submission and use of the attached score copy, holding the SIPF harmless of any wrongdoing in connection with said usage.

signature of legal adult performer or legal guardian of participant

Date