

# 2017 Competition Rules

The Seventh SIPF Piano Competition, 2017, is open to pianists of any nationality. Gold medal winners of any prior SIPF Piano Competition are ineligible from competing again in the same category. Note: alterations to rules or text appear in *red*.

2017 Competition Rules will be updated on or before January, 2017. Prospective participants can expect similar guidelines and rules.

## COMPETITION CATEGORIES

The Piano Competition has six categories in which participants may compete:

- youth, age 9 or under
- youth, ages 10-13
- youth, ages 14-18
- amateur (including (A) and (B) sub-categories for degree holding and non-degree holding participants respectively)
- collegiate
- professional

## COMPETITION ROUNDS

The 2017 competition consists of two rounds for *fully-competitive* participants (all categories with the exception of Youth, ages 9 and under, as well as Amateur categories):

- a preliminary round based on submitted recordings (made anonymous to the listening committee)
- a final live competition round in Seattle, Washington during October, 2017, which will be open to the public (date to be announced March 2017)

For *semi-competitive* participants in Youth, ages 9 and under, and Amateur categories, the competition consists of a single round:

- a single and final round based on submitted recordings (made anonymous to the listening committee)
- a final live debut recital appearance in Seattle, Washington during October, 2017, which will be open to the public (date to be announced March 2017; participant must attend and participate in order maintain eligibility of award status)

A description of each category, and its respective eligibility requirements and rules are listed hereafter. Changes from the 2015 rules are indicated by *(NEW!)*.

# **CATEGORY SPECIFICS**

## **YOUTH, AGES 9 AND UNDER**

Participant must be of qualifying age on May 15, 2017.

The first and only round for this category consists of an audio recording submittal of the participant performing a piece(s) of his/her choice.

The recording need not be longer than 10 minutes in length.

Participants must submit:

1. a completed electronic application registration
2. an electronic payment using a credit card in the relevant amount (\$100 USD)
3. original electronically submitted digital audio

## **YOUTH, AGES 10-13**

Participant must be of qualifying age on May 15, 2017.

The first of two rounds for this category consists of an audio recording submittal of the participant performing a piece(s) of his/her choice.

The recording need not be longer than 12 minutes in length.

Participants must submit:

1. a completed electronic application registration
2. an electronic payment using a credit card in the relevant amount (\$120 USD)
3. original electronically submitted digital audio

## **YOUTH, AGES 14-18**

Participant must be of qualifying age on May 15, 2017. Participants, aged 18 or younger who are attending, or have been accepted, in a piano-related music degree program since applying to the Seattle International Piano Competition are still considered Youth, ages 14-18 participants, unless said participant was fully enrolled in such program during any part of the 2016-17 academic year; in this latter case, participants should apply as Collegiate artists.

The first of two rounds consists of a recording of the participant performing a piece(s) of his/her choice.

The recording need not be longer than 15 minutes in length.

Participants must submit:

1. a completed electronic application registration
2. an electronic payment using a credit card in the relevant amount (\$140 USD)
3. original electronically submitted digital audio

## **AMATEUR (A)**

Participant, aged 19 or older by May 15, 2017, must be studying or working in a vocation other than music. The participant must hold an earned degree in music with an emphasis in piano performance, but must not have been studying or earning a living in music at any point during

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2017. There is no upper age limit for this category. *Note that 'studying' is defined as enrollment in a degree program in the piano-related field of music. Taking weekly lessons or coaching with an instructor privately does not constitute 'studying'.*

The first and only round consists of a recording submittal of the participant performing a piece(s) of his/her choice.

The recording need not be longer than 20 minutes in length.  
Participants must submit:

1. a completed electronic application registration
2. an electronic payment using a credit card in the relevant amount (\$160 USD)
3. a one-page electronic copy of a vitae of musical experience, education, and current vocation (if any). Note that the board may recommend a change from the Amateur (A) to the Amateur (B) category based on information contained in the vitae.
4. original electronically submitted digital audio

## **AMATEUR (B)**

Participant, aged 19 (revised age) or older by May 15, 2017, must be studying or working in a vocation other than music. The participant may not hold a degree in music, and must not have been studying or earning a living in music at any point during 2017 (although enrollment and incomplete degree status in a music program at some point in the past is acceptable). There is no upper age limit for this category. *Note that 'studying' is defined as enrollment in a degree program in the field of music. Taking weekly lessons or coaching with an instructor privately does not constitute 'studying'.*

The first and only round consists of a recording submittal of the participant performing a piece(s) of his/her choice.

The recording need not be longer than 20 minutes in length.  
Participants must submit:

1. a completed electronic application registration
2. an electronic payment using a credit card in the relevant amount (\$160 USD)
3. original electronically submitted digital audio

## **COLLEGIATE**

Participant must be enrolled in a college, university, or conservatory majoring in piano performance program during the 2016-17 academic year. Note that qualification in this division of the competition is based on the academic year during which one applies, not the year in which one participates in the final round. This enrollment must lead to an undergraduate or graduate non-terminal degree program in music (with a major or minor in piano), along a 4-year or 2-year bachelor or associate degree track, master of music degree, or any non-terminal equivalency. Participants enrolled in a terminal graduate degree program in music (such as PhD, DMA, or DM degree programs) are not eligible for the 'collegiate' category, and are eligible only for the 'professional' category. There is no upper age limit for this category.

The first of two rounds consists of a recording of the participant performing a piece(s) of his/her choice.

The recording need not be longer than 20 minutes in length.

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Participants must submit:

1. a completed electronic application registration
2. an electronic payment using a credit card in the relevant amount (\$160 USD)
3. original electronically submitted digital audio

## PROFESSIONAL

Participants must hold the minimum of a Master of Music degree or its equivalent by the by the date of application into the 2017 Seattle International Piano Competition. This category also includes participants who may be enrolled in a terminal graduate degree music program (such as PhD, DM, or DMA degree programs) during the 2016-17 academic year, or have considerable professional performing experience. Such performance credentials may include such things as membership in a professional management agency, a significant number of annual concert engagements, or other similar criteria. The participant must be either studying or living as a professional musician and/or music teacher during 2017. There is no upper age limit for this category.

The first of two rounds consists of a recording submittal of the participant performing a piece(s) of his/her choice.

The recording need not be longer than 20 minutes in length.

Participants must submit:

1. a completed electronic application registration
2. an electronic payment using a credit card in the relevant amount (\$160 USD)
3. a one-page electronic copy of a vitae of musical experience and education
4. original electronically submitted digital audio

## COMPETITION FORMAT

The 2017 piano competition consists of two rounds\*:

1. a preliminary round based on recordings submitted by the participant; and
2. a final live competition round in Seattle, Washington, during October 2017 (date to be determined).

The final round is open to the public and will be held at Benaroya Hall.

*\* **Exception:** Youth, Ages 9 and under, as well as Amateur categories; for these groups, the competition is considered 'semi-competitive', conducted solely from recordings submitted by the participant.*

## PRELIMINARY ROUND

### REPERTOIRE

There are no program requirements of solo classical repertoire in any category, with the exception that no works requiring any sort of preparation or amplification of the piano will be

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admitted for either the preliminary or final round. No jazz, new age, free improvisation, or pop music of any kind is acceptable. Works performed must be complete movements (no cuts or excerpts allowed). Examples include the entire first movement of Beethoven's "Waldstein" sonata, Op. 53 or all ten variations of Mozart's entire set, "Unser dummer Pöbel meint", K. 455. Miniatures, including etudes, 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, such as only the prelude from a prelude and fugue by J. S. Bach, or the exposition section of a sonata by Mozart, are not acceptable. All works performed must be solo works. Chamber music, works for 4-hands/2-pianos, or concerti are also not admissible. Participants need not, and should not, include scores with preliminary round submissions or during the final round of the competition.

## RECORDING PREPARATION

It is to the participant's benefit to provide a recording of high quality. Recordings with too much background noise or distortion make it difficult for adjudicators to render a fair judgment of technical and artistic qualities. However, recordings need not be professionally edited. Audio recordings must be submitted electronically in a compressed DRM-free audio-only format, including .m4a or .mp3 (**NEW!**). No other digital formats are admissible.

After completing an electronic application, participants will be directed to an upload page where they may submit their electronic selections. Before going through the application process, participants must ensure that their audio is prepared. The SIPF requires that:

- each digital file is named respective of the track list submitted on the application form PRECEDED by TWO DIGITS corresponding to the performer's desired play order (for example, "01 - Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 31, No. 3 (i. Allegro) - Beethoven"),
- the digital file has been completely scrubbed of data tags containing identification of the performer (note that movement and work titles in ID tags are admissible),
- encoded at a bitrate between 128 and 192 (often displayed as "kbps") to ensure a balance of quality and portability, and,
- a maximum file size of 25 megabytes.

Note that failure to properly scrub the performer's identity from the file, including spoken dialogue of any sort on the audio proper, or any digital identification of the performer within the filesystem or meta data tags may result in instant disqualification of the participant without notice or refund. The SIPF takes no responsibility or liability to review or sanitize recordings to ensure these adhere to the above guidelines and requirements (**NEW!**).

The use of an acoustic piano is strongly urged during one's recording session in preparation for admission into the 2017 Seattle International Piano Competition. The use of a digital piano or keyboard often results in a detrimental assessment during the adjudication process. Note also that providing more than the recommended music time allotment rarely results in a more favorable outcome (**NEW!**).

Review all files carefully and completely so that they are free of flaws or other unanticipated issues. Participants should therefore retain copies of all materials sent to the SIPF Piano Competition, 2017. Recorded performances must be performed entirely from memory. Exception: Note that Amateur (B) participants are released from this requirement.

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Recordings and other submitted materials will not be returned.

## **PRELIMINARY ROUND PROCEDURES**

All preliminary performers are randomly numbered and made anonymous to the listening committee, which will be assembled from a pool of artist teachers. These committees will not be assembled until after all applications have been collected in order to facilitate fair and unbiased adjudication (such as might occur when assigning a juror to a category in which a former or current student may be participating). Preliminary round participants will be selected by the listening committee to compete in the final live round to the general public in Seattle, Washington during October, 2017. Selected finalists will be notified shortly on or after August 1, 2017. At that time, these selected participants must declare their intent to continue to the live final round in Seattle in October, 2017. Failure to appear will result in the ineligibility of any prize. Selected finalists who choose to appear at the final round must notify the SIFP board in writing (e-mails are acceptable) by August 10, 2017, at which date they must remit the requested biographic materials, headshot photos, and program **(NEW!)**.

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

All preliminary round submission and applications must be submitted by ~~May 15~~ **July 1st (revised date)**, 2017. For those submitting applications near the deadline, please ensure that all required application materials have been collected and prepared. Incomplete applications or improper submittals may result in delay, or potentially the participant's disqualification without notice or refund.

## **FINAL ROUND**

### **REPERTOIRE AND PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

The following time limits are imposed for finalists notified to compete during October, 2017, in Seattle. The participant's final round program may be different than, or identical to that submitted on the preliminary round recording. Finalists must declare their final round program strictly within the time limits outlined above in writing by August 10, 2017 (e-mail preferred), complete with opus/catalog number and movement information (where applicable) with timing. This timing must be accurate and strictly within the final round limits listed below. If the performer exceeds his or her time, he/she may be stopped during the live final round performance. Absolutely no alteration to the submitted repertoire list of the final round may be made at any time once the participant has remitted his or her acceptance. The final round program must adhere to the same standards and requirements of that listed above in 'REPERTOIRE'.

### **CATEGORY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

#### **YOUTH, AGES 9 OR LESS**

Up to 8 **(NEW!)** unranked winners from the preliminary round will be chosen to make a debut performance at Benaroya Hall during the Seattle Int'l Piano Festival during October, 2017.

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Each participant's program must be 6 minutes or less in length

### **YOUTH, AGES 10-13**

Up to 8 **(NEW!)** finalists will be chosen to compete live at Benaroya Hall during the Seattle Int'l Piano Festival during October, 2017.

Each participant's program must be 10 minutes or less in length

### **YOUTH, AGES 14-18**

Up to 8 **(NEW!)** finalists will be chosen to compete live at Benaroya Hall during the Seattle Int'l Piano Festival during October, 2017.

Each participant's program must be 12 minutes or less in length

### **AMATEUR**

Up to 8 **(NEW!)** unranked winners from the preliminary round will be chosen to make a debut performance at Benaroya Hall during the Seattle Int'l Piano Festival during October, 2017.

Each participant's program must be 15 minutes or less in length

### **COLLEGIATE**

Up to 8 **(NEW!)** unranked winners from the preliminary round will be chosen to make a debut performance at Benaroya Hall during the Seattle Int'l Piano Festival during October, 2017.

Each participant's program must be 20 minutes or less in length

### **PROFESSIONAL**

Up to 8 **(NEW!)** unranked winners from the preliminary round will be chosen to make a debut performance at Benaroya Hall during the Seattle Int'l Piano Festival during October, 2017.

Each participant's program must be 20 minutes or less in length

## **FINAL ROUND PROCEDURES**

No finalist will be required to perform earlier than their assigned time in the case of a last minute cancelation or absence. The performance order within each category will be randomly determined. Absolutely no accommodation will be made to any request to alter the order once announced. All finalists and unranked winners must appear at his or her respective performance time in Illsley Ball Recital Hall at Benaroya during the Seattle Int'l Piano Festival during October, 2017. Similarly, all participants must plan to attend the award ceremony near the end of the festival, at which time prizes will be announced. Likewise, all finalists must be prepared to stay through the end of the festival weekend in the case that he or she will be asked to perform in the winners' concert. Participants must appear and participate during these events, including winners' concert at the end of the festival in order to preserve eligibility of any award and to receive award prize money **(NEW!)**. Any act of dishonesty will result in the immediate disqualification of the participant from any competitive or performance opportunities during the SIPP.

## **PRACTICE**

Finalists will be assigned practice time prior to the competition to those who request such accommodation for non-local finalists only. Due to the limited availability of instruments, we cannot guarantee more than one hour of practice time in total. A brief warm-up will be possible in the dressing room of the performance hall immediately prior to the participant's start time.

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## **JUDGES' DECISIONS**

The final round will be judged by a pool of internationally trained artists musicians and pedagogues (see JURY on the website). The jurors are not permitted to evaluate a current or former student with whom he or she has worked during the past five years. In such situations, a nonpartisan juror will be selected to substitute in a given category, or vote in the case of a tie. The decision of the jury on both the preliminary round and final round is final and not subject to question, review, or appeal. All participants must agree to waive any and all claims of liability (see 'Release, Waiver, and Sworn Statement').

Preliminary round participants will not receive any written commentary. Finalists will have the opportunity to speak with jurors after the announcement of awards during the evenings following competitive events of the SIPF.

Top ranked semi-finalists will be invited to participate in a special recital inaugurating the 2017 SIPF in October before a live audience in Benaroya Hall in Seattle. All winners, finalists, and semi-finalists will be listed on this website shortly following the 2017 festival (no requests to be exempt from the list will be accepted). Current instructors of finalists and winners will also be listed on our [Master Teachers](#) page (**NEW!**).

## **TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION**

Finalists must be prepared to travel to Seattle, Washington, USA at his or her own expense. The organizers do not provide housing, but a list of housing choices, including potential host families, will be provided upon request. The organizers offer no guarantee that they will be able to fulfill a host family stay request. Non US residents are responsible for obtaining a visa, if necessary, to participate in the final round.

## **RELEASE, WAIVER, AND SWORN STATEMENT**

### **RELEASE**

The PARTICIPANT or the LEGAL GUARDIAN of the participant, age 17 or younger (hereinafter collectively referred to as "PARTICIPANT"), hereby waives, releases, and grants to and for the benefit of the Seattle International Piano Festival (hereinafter referred to as "SIPF") and/or its assignees, any and all rights the participant 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. The participant understands and agrees 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.

### **WAIVER**

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The PARTICIPANT, fully and in good faith intending to be bound thereby, does 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 piano 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.) The participant intends 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.

## **SWORN STATEMENT**

The PARTICIPANT hereby certifies that all recordings of the repertoire herein which have been submitted to the 2017 Seattle International Piano Competition for consideration have been performed and/or recorded by the participant completely from memory, without the use of musical scores, notes, or auxiliary musical notation of any kind, unless an exemption as outlined in the 2017 competition rules grants such waiver. Furthermore, the participant hereby affirms to the fact that the recordings submitted with in conjunction with the participant's application is a true and accurate representation of the participant's performance.

The PARTICIPANT further agrees to comply faithfully with all rules, regulations, and procedures in connection with the 2017 Seattle International Piano Competition and hereby promises to accept any verdict by SIPF adjudicators as final.

By clicking "I agree to the terms and conditions below" on the electronic application, the participant fully affirms that the above statements in the Release, Waiver, and Sworn Statement are true, and legally binding upon the participant.