

## 2020 Virtuoso Artists Festival: Rules, Guidelines, and Agreement

### Overview

The Seattle International Piano Festival (SIPF) announces the sixth iteration of its annual festival, which has been renamed and revised: the Virtuoso Festival is now the **Virtuoso Artists Festival** for pianists, instrumentalists, and chamber musicians featuring works from the Romantic to the current era. Participants of any age or nationality may participate. In light of the current unknown future of performance venues, this event has been formatted solely for online participation. However, select winners will be invited to perform in RESONANCE at SOMA TOWERS, a performance venue in Bellevue, Washington at a date to be announced (estimated: autumn, 2020). No fee will be assessed among performers of this event.

This competitive event was created to provide performing and educational opportunities for those who wish to share their love of Romantic, Impressionistic, and Modern repertoire (for solo piano, solo instrumentalists, and chamber music with piano) and to provide performers with constructive feedback from performing and teaching masters. Participants will receive educational evaluations, 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. The 2020 Virtuoso Artists Festival also includes works from the Romantic era and later styles, as well as single- and multiple- work sub-divisions.

### Festival Date

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this festival has been amended to accept video entry only, avoiding the need to congregate on a predetermined day. The application deadline, including recording submission entry for previously enrolled participants is Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 11:59 PM (PST). Review of entries concludes and results will posted [here](#) on July 15.

### Eligibility

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

**Solo Division** (piano or instrumentalist), **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: \$59
- ages 9 to 10—up to 6 minutes of music. Fee: \$64
- ages 11 to 12—up to 9 minutes of music. Fee: \$74
- ages 13 to 14—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$84
- ages 15 to 16—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$84
- ages 17 to 18—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$84
- collegiate—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$84
- adults, age 19 or older—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$84
- professional—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$84

**Solo Division** (piano or instrumentalist), **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; for instrumental entries, accompaniment is not required; see above for age divisions)

**Chamber Music Division** (the eldest ensemble participant determines the age group for the entire ensemble; 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: \$30 per participant

- ages 14 to 18—up to 12 minutes of music. Fee: \$35 per participant
- collegiate—12 minutes. Fee: \$35 per participant
- adults, age 19 or older—12 minutes. Fee: \$35 per participant
- professional—12 minutes. Fee: \$35 per participant

To qualify within a given age category, participants must be the defined age as of July 2, 2020. 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*. The eldest member determines the age division for the entire participating ensemble. 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 SIFP advisory board reserves the right to refuse any selections that may challenge the prevailing understood boundaries of these style periods. If you have concerns or questions regarding your repertoire selection, you may write with the subject heading "Repertoire Ruling" to [info@seattlepianocompetition.org](mailto: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. Concerti are not admissible.

Multiple movements/miniatures/selections chosen from the same super-set are considered "single works" for the purpose of subdividing performance divisions. Examples include multiple movements from Schumann's *Kinderszenen*, Op.15, or two movements from Chopin's Sonata in B minor, Op.58.

All solo entries (both piano and instrumental) must be performed by memory. Adults, age 19 and over are exempt from performing by memory.

All entry fees are nonrefundable.

## **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 are unacceptable. If an incomplete application requires amendment, a \$10 additional fee may be assessed. Please refer frequently to the SIPF website for updates, errata, adjudicator information, as well as results.

The application process begins now and closes **Thursday, July 2 at 11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time**.

The application fee is nonrefundable.

## **Video Submission**

All participants must submit publicly accessible videos via YouTube link (may be attached to the application, or entered later on this alternate video submission form). The SIPF takes no responsibility for videos that have permissions set to limit viewership or are published through any other video sharing platform (vimeo, etc). Ensure that your video is viewable by a third party, even if you choose to make them unlisted.

Participants are free to submit up to three separate video links when applying for the multiple works subdivision (all works are not required to be on the same video link). The first link must contain a brief introduction by the performer stating his or her name for verification purposes (a first name that matches the application entry will suffice).

Submit a recorded video between now and Saturday, July 2 at 11:59 pm via our online submission form. Record your selection as many times as you would like.

Recordings must conform to the following standards and procedures:

- Recordings must consist of unedited, uninterrupted video footage of the participant from a single camera angle with coverage of the performer's hands and face at all times (one track per single movement; separate tracks for multiple pieces or movements is permissible).
- Recordings must begin with the participant stating his or her name in a clear voice.
- Recordings must be cued to begin within five seconds after the performer identifies him or herself (a first name that matches the application entry will suffice).
- Recordings must feature the work with which the participant originally entered.
- Recordings must be uploaded to YouTube and set for unlisted or public access (no private listings requiring permissions).

The entry form will accept your links. Enter the performer's name exactly like you entered in the original competition entry form. The form will go offline when the deadline lapses. Please ensure you receive an automated confirmation message within minutes of your entry. Failure to receive a message indicates a transmission issue or incomplete submission. If you don't get a confirmation immediately, write to [info@seattlepiano.competition.org](mailto:info@seattlepiano.competition.org)

## **Music Scores**

No scores are required. The entire process is adjudicated solely from video performance.

## **Prizes and Results**

Results of the review will be published at [seattlepiano.competition.org](http://seattlepiano.competition.org) by July 15.

Within each category, any number of gold, silver, and bronze medalists, and honorable mentions will be awarded. A select number of winners will be hand picked to be invited to play at RESONANCE at SOMA Towers in Bellevue, Washington during a date to be announced (currently, we anticipate early autumn, 2020). 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. Note that the SIFP advisory board reserves the right to divide exceptionally large groups of participants within the *solo division* into smaller ones. All participants receive certificates of completion.

All award materials and adjudicators’ comment sheets will be mailed to the address of the participants’ teacher, if applicable, or to the participant if not. Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. A delivery charge will be assessed among international winners.

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 3, 2020)
- 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
- Prepare a video presentation, up to 3 links, for upload to YouTube (if applying before July 2, you needn’t include your performance links — these may be entered later on this form)

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 2020 Virtuoso Artists Festival General Rules. 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 other students of 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 2020 Virtuoso Artists Festival with respect, and promises not to harass or malign any such individuals connect with or about the event's activities, including, but not limited to its guest adjudicators. 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 a rules and guidelines set forth in the pages above of the "2020 Virtuoso Artists Festival Rules, Information, and Application" document.

### 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 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.) 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 2020 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 the above pages of the "Virtuoso Artists Festival Rules, Information, and Application" document. By clicking the "I agree to the terms and conditions below" selection on the electronic application for the 2020 Virtuoso Artists 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 2020 Virtuoso Artists Festival, the participant fully affirms that the above statements in this agreement are true, and legally binding upon the participant.