

2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival

International Competition of Polish Music — Rules, Guidelines, and Agreement

Note: changes to the rules since original publishing marked in red

Overview

The Seattle International Piano Festival (SIPF) proudly introduces the inaugural *Chopin & Beyond: International Competition of Polish Music* (online edition), open to pianists, violinists, and other instrumentalists of any nationality. This competition celebrates the works of Frédéric Chopin, Henryk Wieniawski, and both renowned and lesser-known Polish composers across all eras.

The purpose of this event is to highlight and promote Polish art and culture, while providing developing artists with opportunities for growth, recognition, and artistic enrichment. All participants will receive educational evaluations from an international panel of adjudicators, as well as eligibility for certificates and medals of distinction.

As part of this festival, a Grand Prix category for pianists ages 12–18 offers additional opportunities for distinction, including cash prizes and participation in an exclusive masterclass with a guest artist of Polish heritage and expertise.

To ensure fairness, the competition is divided into clearly defined age brackets and genre categories, allowing each participant to be evaluated among peers of similar level and background.

Applications must be submitted electronically using the official online [application form](#)

Festival Date

The 2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival will be conducted entirely through submitted video recordings (see Video Submissions below for detailed requirements).

- Submission Deadline: All video links must be received no later than 9:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (UTC-7) on Sunday, March 1, 2026.
- Results: Festival results will be announced on or shortly after March 16, 2026, via the SIPF website.

Eligibility

The festival is open to participants of all nationalities, according to the age divisions and performance categories defined below.

- Age Qualification: For all categories, March 1, 2026 will serve as the official cutoff date for determining participant age. (For example, a participant's age on March 1, 2026 determines their assigned age group, regardless of the actual submission date.)
- In the event of a revised submission deadline, March 1, 2026 will remain the fixed age qualification date.

Age Divisions

Participants will be grouped into the following age categories:

- Division I: Ages 9 and under
- Division II: Ages 10–13
- Division III: Ages 14–18
- Division IV: Collegiate/Professional (currently pursuing or holding a degree in music)
- Division V: Adult Amateurs, ages 19 and older (not holding a degree in music and not working professionally as a musician)

Performance Categories

Each participant must register under one of the following performance categories. Detailed programming requirements and repertoire guidelines are provided in the Repertoire Addendum (pp. 7-9).

Note: *Entries that do not conform to the requirements in the addendum may be denied eligibility.*

Code	Category	Instrumentation	Accompaniment	Cost
A	Chopin: Etudes	Piano only	None	\$81
B	Chopin: Preludes	Piano only	None	\$81
C	Chopin: Dances	Piano only	None	\$86
D	Chopin: Large-Scale or Narrative Works	Piano only	None	\$91
E	Chopin: Lyrical Works	Piano only	None	\$86
F	Chopin: Miscellaneous Works	Piano only	None	\$81
G	Chopin: Concerti	Piano only	Required	\$91
H	Wieniawski: Solo Works	Violin only	Required	\$86
I	Wieniawski: Concerti	Violin only	Required	\$91
J	Szymanowski: Miniatures or Character Pieces	Piano, Violin, or Other Instrument	Required (if applicable)	\$81
K	Szymanowski: Large-Scale Works	Piano, Violin, or Other Instrument	Required (if applicable)	\$91
L	Moszkowski: Etudes	Piano only	None	\$81
M	Works by Predecessors of Chopin	Piano, Violin, or Other Instrument	Required (if applicable)	\$81
N	Works by Polish Romantics	Piano, Violin, or Other Instrument	Required (if applicable)	\$86
O	Works by Contemporary Polish Composers (Deceased)	Piano, Violin, or Other Instrument	Required (if applicable)	\$86
P	Works by Polish Living Composers	Piano, Violin, or Other Instrument	Required (if applicable)	\$86
Q	Arrangements of Tunes by Polish Composers	Piano, Violin, or Other Instrument	Required (if applicable)	\$86

Grand Prix

In addition, the *Chopin & Beyond Festival* offers a **Grand Prix** division for competitive pianists ages 12 to 18.

Each Grand Prix competitor must choose one work by Frédéric Chopin *and* one work by a different Polish composer, with a total performance duration between 8 and 15 minutes.

An Outstanding Promising Talent Prize, consisting of a \$200 e-gift card, a diploma, and a special masterclass participation opportunity will be awarded to two competitors between the ages of 12 to 14, and two competitors between the ages of 15 and 18. These special prizewinners will have the opportunity to participate in a special masterclass with a distinguished Polish guest artist on Saturday, April 25 or Sunday, April 26, 2026. Further details will be provided along with notification of the special prize winners.

The cost to participate in the Grand Prix division is \$100 per participant.

Age Qualification and Participation Limit

- **Age Eligibility:** To qualify for a given age category, participants must meet the defined age requirement as of March 1, 2026.
- **Teacher Submissions:** There is no limit to the number of students a single teacher may submit. Teachers are not required to provide volunteer assistance or pay any fee in order to enter students.
- **Multiple Entries:** Participants may submit multiple applications if they wish to compete in more than one division.

Repertoire Requirements

Approved Works: Participants must select repertoire from the official '2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival Repertoire List' (pp. 7-9). Only works listed therein are admissible.

- **Separate Applications:** A separate application and fee must be submitted for each performance category entered.
- **No Mixing of Categories:** Mixing of works from different performance categories within a single application is not permitted, with the following exceptions:
- The Grand Prix division, as specified both above, and the '2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival Repertoire List' (pp. 6–8)
- Other exceptions expressly noted in the official Repertoire List

Accompaniment

- **Requirement:** If the selected work includes an accompaniment part, the participant must perform with a live collaborative partner in the submitted recording.
- **Choice of Accompanist:** The festival places no restrictions on the choice of accompanist. This may include a student, professional collaborator, or the participant's instructor.
- **Video Presentation:** The accompanist may appear on the video recording at the entrant's discretion.
- **Prohibited Accompaniments:** Pre-recorded or digitally generated accompaniments are not permitted.

Applications

Applications are available online on the electronic [application 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. Please refer frequently to the SIPF website for updates, errata, adjudicator information, as well as results.

It is possible to submit an application before obtaining performance links. Links may still be submitted separately through the [2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival Video Recording Submittal](#) page by the application deadline (below).

The application process begins in January and closes Sunday, March 1 at 9:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (UTC/GMT-7). Results will be posted on the [winners' page](#) on or shortly after March 16.

The application fee is nonrefundable. Due to the online nature, the SIPF has no set limit to number of entries. The SIPF may extend the deadline at its sole discretion, and reserves the right to divide large groups into smaller ones based on age, works, or any other criteria to preserve the equitable nature of the festival. Participants of the three main instrumental groups, namely (1) piano, (2) violin, and (3) instrumentalists will not be competing against performers outside of their instrumental group.

Music Scores

Due to the online nature of the *2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival*, scores are not required.

Video Submission

Platform & Access

- All recordings must be submitted as YouTube links (either with the application form or later via the *2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival Video Recording Submittal Page*).
- Videos on other platforms (e.g., Vimeo, Dropbox, Google Drive) are not accepted.
- Videos must be set to Unlisted or Public. Private links requiring permissions will not be viewable and will result in disqualification.
- The SIPF is not responsible for videos that are inaccessible due to user-set permissions.

Number of Videos

- Participants may submit up to two separate video links when entering multiple works or multi-movement works (e.g., sonatas, mazurkas).
- Works are not required to appear on a single video.

Naming & Identification

- The participant's full name (matching the application form) must be clearly listed in the video title or description.
- A brief caption of the performer's name in the video itself may be included, but does not substitute for the required name in the title/description.

Recording Standards

- Continuity: Each work or movement must be presented in unedited, uninterrupted video footage from a single camera angle.
- Camera Angle: Performer's face and hands must remain visible throughout.
- Cueing: Recordings must begin within five seconds of the start of the footage. (Editing to add a leader up to five seconds is permitted.)
- Declared Repertoire: Performances must match the repertoire listed on the application form. No repertoire substitutions are allowed after submission.

Memorization Requirements

- **Piano entrants** in all categories must perform from memory. Any score visible in the video will render the participant ineligible.
- **Violinists and other instrumentalists:**
 - Concertos must be performed from memory.

- ▶ Works other than concertos that require accompaniment may be performed with score.

Submission Deadline

- All video links must be submitted by Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 9:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (UTC-7).
- Applicants may complete the application first and return later to submit video links before the deadline.
- The submission form will automatically close at the deadline.

Confirmation of Submission

- A confirmation message will be sent automatically within minutes of a successful upload.
- Failure to receive confirmation indicates a transmission issue or incomplete submission.
- If no confirmation is received, contact sipfchelsea@outlook.com immediately.

Prizes and Results

Publication of Results

- Results will be announced in a special publication approximately two (2) weeks after the submission deadline.
- Results will be posted on the SIPF website and distributed by official announcement.

Awards

Within each category, the jury may award:

- Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals
- Certificates of Distinction
- Honorable Mentions (at the jury's discretion)

All participants not otherwise recognized will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Grand Prix Awards

Four (4) Outstanding Promising Talent Prizes will be awarded in the Grand Prix division:

- Two (2) prizewinners ages 12–14
- Two (2) prizewinners ages 15–18

Each prize includes:

- A \$200 electronic gift card
- A diploma of recognition
- The opportunity to participate in a masterclass with a Polish guest artist on April 25 or April 26, 2026

Works performed in the masterclass must be identical to those submitted for competition.

Jury Discretion

The SIPF Advisory Board reserves the right to subdivide exceptionally large participant groups into smaller groups according to age, repertoire, or other criteria to preserve fairness.

Conduct and Finality of Decisions

All jury decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Participants, as well as families, teachers, and coaches of the participant must:

- Accept jury decisions without challenge
- Refrain from contacting, debating, or engaging with jurors regarding results or commentary, both before and after the event
- Treat all SIPF volunteers and organizers with professionalism and respect

- Prohibited Conduct: Any attempt to debate, question, or directly contact an adjudicator regarding results may result in:
 - Permanent disqualification of the participant, and/or
 - Disbarment of the participant's teacher and students from all future SIPF events

Feedback and Communication

Comments, concerns, or words of appreciation must be submitted in writing to:

Seattle International Piano Festival (SIPF)
58 Front Street N, Suite 200
Issaquah, WA 98027-3261

Distribution of Awards

Local Participants (King County, WA)

- Participants who reside in King County or whose instructor resides in King County may pick up medals locally.
- The pickup time and location will be announced after adjudication concludes.
- Please allow 2–4 weeks after results are published (approximately March 31, 2026) for distribution to begin.
- Certificates and adjudicator comments will be distributed electronically.
- After medals are ready, organizers will contact participants with instructions for arranging pickup.
- Important: Do not contact local music stores regarding award pickup.

Non-Local Participants

- Participants outside of driving range will have medals and materials shipped by courier to:
 - The participant's teacher, or
 - The participant directly (if applying independently or without a current teacher).

International Delivery

- The SIPF reserves the right to assess an additional international shipping fee (approximately \$14.50 USD).
- Without payment of the additional fee, international delivery will not be processed.

Application Checklist

Before filling out the application:

- Read all rules, guidelines, and agreement found on the following page thoroughly
- Understand and identify the appropriate age division (participants must be of given age on March 1, 2026) and performance category (see '2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival Repertoire List')
- 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, and opus or other catalogue numbers when available)
- Note the fee for your performance category and have a valid credit card ready
- Prepare a video presentation, up to 2 links, for upload to YouTube (if applying before March 1, 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 SIPF website.

2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival Repertoire List

Prominent Polish Composers: Frédéric Chopin

A. Chopin: Etudes. Any one or two selections from either of Frédéric Chopin's *24 Etudes*, Op.10 and Op.25, as well as the *Trois nouvelles études*, Op.Posthumous. Piano only. Cost: \$81

B. Chopin: Preludes. Any one or two selections from Chopin's *24 Preludes*, Op.28, Prelude in C-sharp minor, Op.45, or spurious posthumous Preludes, namely the *Prelude in A-flat major* (1834) or *E-flat minor*. Piano only. Cost: \$81

C. Chopin: Dances. Any one work from among Chopin's published and posthumous Mazurkas, Polonaises (excluding the *Polonaise-fantaisie*, Op.61), Waltzes, *Boléro*, Op.19, *Tarantella*, Op.43, or *Three Écossaises*, Op.Posthumous, *Contredanse*, Op.Posthumous, or 2 *Bourrées* (1846). Piano only. Cost: \$86

D. Chopin: Large Scale or Narrative Works. Any one work from among Chopin's four *Ballades*, Op.23, 38, 47, 52, *Impromptus*, Op.29, 36, 51, 66, *Rondos*, Op.1, 5, 16, *Scherzi*, Op.20, 31, 39, 54, single movement of a *Sonata*, Op.4, 35, 58, *Variations*, Op.2, 12, or B.14, *Andante spianato and Grand Polonaise*, Op.22, *Allegro de concert in A major*, Op.46, *Barcarolle*, Op.60, *Polonaise-Fantaisie*, Op.61, or *Fantasy in F minor*, Op.49. Piano only. Cost: \$91

E. Chopin: Lyrical Works. Choose one work from among Chopin's Nocturnes, or *Berceuse in D-flat major*, Op.57. Piano only. Cost: \$86

F. Chopin: Miscellaneous Works. Any one solo piano work by Chopin not listed above. Piano only. Cost: \$81

G. Chopin: Concerti. Any one movement from Chopin's two concerti or other concerto-like pieces, including *Fantasy on Polish Airs*, Op.13, or *Rondo à la Krakowiak*, Op.14. Piano only. Accompaniment required. Cost: \$91

Prominent Polish Composers: Henryk Wieniawski

H. Wieniawski: Solo Works. Any one or work or combination of up to two multi-movement showpiece works from the same set for violin solo or violin and piano totaling less than eight (8) minutes in duration. No concerto or concerto-like works with orchestral accompaniment (or reduction) allowed. Violin only. No duets. Accompaniment required. Cost: \$86

I. Wieniawski: Concerti. Any one movement from *Concerto No. 1*, Op.14, or No.2, Op.22, as well as concerti without opus numbers. Violin only. Accompaniment required. Cost: \$91

Prominent Polish Composers: Karol Szymanowski

J. Solo Miniatures by Karol Szymanowski. Any one or two dances or character pieces totaling less than eight (8) minutes in duration. Violin, piano or instrumentalist. Any obligato accompaniment is required, if present. Cost: \$81

K. Large-Scale Works by Karol Szymanowski. Any *one* or *two* movements of a sonata, variation set, or other large-form work totaling more than six (6) minutes in duration up to a maximum of fifteen (15) total minutes in duration. Violin, piano or instrumentalist. Any obligato accompaniment is required, if present. Cost: \$91

Prominent Polish Composers: Moritz Moszkowski

L. Moszkowski: Etudes. Any *one* or *two* etudes from *Quinze Études de Virtuosité*, Op.72, *Vingt Petites Études*, Op.91, or *12 Études de Piano pour la Main Gauche Seule*, Op.91. Piano only. Cost: \$81

Other Broad Classifications of Polish Composers

Note: the composer suggestions found among the categories below are not meant to be exhaustive. Because the borders of Eastern Europe shifted throughout the centuries, this can create some confusion or ambiguity of many composers' nationalities. You may obtain confirmation of your choice before submitting by writing to sjpfchelsea@outlook.com.

M. Works by Predecessors of Chopin. Any *one* or *two* works totaling less than eight (8) minutes in total duration by a composer or combination of composers pre-dating Chopin (born before 1800). Examples include works by Maria Szymanowska, Józef Elsner, Franciszek Lessel, Karol Kurpiński, and Michał Ogiński, among others. This is not an exhaustive list. No concerti. Any obligato accompaniment required (if present). Piano, violin, or instrumentalist. Cost: \$81

N. Works by Polish Romantics. Any *one* or *two* works totaling less than twelve (12) minutes in duration by a composer or combination of composers representative of the Romantic era other than those specified in above categories. Examples include works by Josef Hofmann, Ignaz Friedman, Moritz Rosenthal, Aleksander Michałowski, Sigismund Stojowski, Mieczysław Karłowicz, Roman Statkowski, Ignacy Krzyżanowski, Sergei Bortkiewicz, August Freyer, Julian Klemczyński, Karol Lipiński, Karol Mikuli, Stanisław Moniuszko, Ignacy Paderewski, Philipp Scharwenka, Xaver Scharwenka, Karl Tausig, Józef Wieniawski, Juliusz Zarębski, Władysław Żeleński, among others. This is not an exhaustive list. No concerti. Any obligato accompaniment required (if present). Piano, violin, or instrumentalist. Cost: \$86

O. Works by Contemporary Polish Composers. Any *one* or *two* works totaling less than twelve (12) minutes in duration by a composer or combination of composers representative of the Contemporary era other than those specified in above categories and currently living composers. Examples include works by Grażyna Bacewicz, Tadeusz Baird, Henryk Górecki, Józef Koffler, Włodzimierz Kotoński, Andrzej Kurylewicz, Witold Lutosławski, Andrzej Panufnik, Krzysztof Penderecki, Bogusław Schaeffer, Kazimierz Serocki, Janina Skowronska, Marek Stachowski, Aleksander Szeligowski, Mieczysław Weinberg, Alexandre Tansman, among others. This is not an exhaustive list. No concerti. Any obligato accompaniment required (if present). Piano, violin, or instrumentalist. Cost: \$86

P. Works by Polish Living Composers. Any *one* or *two* works totaling less than twelve (12) minutes in duration by a living composer or combination of living composers other than those specified in above categories. Examples include Marcel Chyrzyński, Anna Ignatowicz-Glińska, Zygmunt Krauze, Hanna Kulenty, Paweł Mykietyn, Krzysztof Meyer, Zbigniew Preisner, Marta Ptaszynska, Bettina Skrzypczak, Maciej Zieliński, among others. This is not an exhaustive list. No concerti. Any obligato accompaniment required (if present). Piano, violin, or instrumentalist. Cost: \$86

Q. Arrangements of Tunes by Polish Composers. Choose one or two works totaling less than eight (8) minutes in duration of an arrangement or transcription of any tune of Polish origin. The arranger/transcriber need not be of Polish nationality. Examples include Liszt's arrangements of Chopin's Six Polish Songs, S.480, or Melcer's arrangement of Moniuszko's "The Spinning Girl". No concerti. Any obligato accompaniment required (if present). Piano, violin, or instrumentalist. Cost: \$86

Grand Prix Division

Grand Prix. Choose one work by Frédéric Chopin and a second work by another Polish national composer with a combined duration of no more than fifteen (15) minutes. Four unranked winners will be selected to receive a \$200 cash prize with a certificate for "Outstanding Promising Talent" and opportunity to perform in a masterclass with a Polish guest artist. Piano only. No concerti. Ages 12 to 18 only. Cost: \$100

AGREEMENT

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 2026 Chopin & Beyond 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 2026 Chopin & Beyond 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 the rules and guidelines set forth in pages 1 through 4 of the "2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival Rules, Guidelines, and Agreement" document (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement").

Release

The 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

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 Chopin & Beyond Festival 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 2026 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 2026 SIPF piano competition or its associated festivals 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 2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival rules grants such waiver. The participant agrees to treat the organizers, volunteers, and adjudicators of the 2026 Chopin & Beyond 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 a rules and guidelines set forth in pages 1 through 5 of this document.

Furthermore, the Participant agrees 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 2026 Chopin & Beyond Festival, the participant fully affirms that the above statements in this agreement are true, and legally binding upon the participant.