

Classical Viennese Festival International 2026 Participation Rules, Information, and Application

Overview

The Seattle International Piano Festival (SIPF) is proud to present the fourteenth annual Classical Viennese Festival International (recorded video edition) for pianists and instrumental performers. Participants of any nationality may participate. This competitive event was created to showcase classical and pre-classical sonata forms. Important for clarity and formal understanding, the sonata and related classical forms are often neglected or underrepresented in competitive events, 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 certificates and medals during this competitive event.

This festival sets forth a number of age groups (ages 7 and under non-competitive, ages 8 and under fully competitive, 9 to 10, 11 to 12, 13 to 14, 15 to 16, and 17 to 18, as well as various divisions of adult performers), as well as several narrowly defined performance categories so that they may be fairly judged, and generously decorated.

Festivals

The 2026 “*Classical Viennese Festival International*” takes place exclusively as an online pre-recorded video event. The deadline to submit is 9:00 PM, Wednesday, April 15, 2026, Pacific Standard Time (GMT-8).

The following age-related divisions are defined for participants:

- age 7 and under (non-competitive)
- youth divisions according to each age bracket (ages 8 and under fully competitive, 9 to 10, 11 to 12, 13 to 14, 15 to 16, and 17 to 18)
- collegiate (those currently pursuing a bachelor or equivalent degree in music)
- amateurs, ages 19 and older (not currently engaged in professional work or degree-pursuing study in music)
- professional (those with a masters or higher degree or equivalent certification in music performance)

The following performance groups are defined for participants:

Pianists and Instrumentalists, alike:

Non-Competitive, Ages 7 or under — Participants, age 7 and under, eligible to participate in the non-competitive division will receive comments from adjudicators specifically tailored for how to prepare successfully for future fully-competitive events. All participants will receive gold stars and certificates. Participants may freely choose and mix from any classical area work or works up to the maximum allowed time and may be either piano or instrumental participants. Simplified arrangements of classical works are acceptable. Those wishing to participate fully competitively should select “Ages 8 and under fully competitive” for their age category. Up to 4 minutes of music. Cost: \$78

Piano participants only, fully competitive (default):

Piano Sonatinas — pre-classical to high classical sonatinas from composers such as Clementi, Kuhlau, Dussek, Köhler, Diabelli, Leopold Mozart, Beethoven, and their contemporaries. Choose any number or combination of movements within this group equal to or less than the maximum duration for assigned to the age category. **Note that the “6 Viennese Sonatinas for piano KV 439b” by W.A. Mozart are acceptable only for group (F) Sonatas by W.A. Mozart for the purposes of Classical Viennese Festival International category divisions. No sonatinas of post-Classical composers (Gurlitt, Kabalevsky, Lynes, and the like) are admissible. No sonatas.** Up to 5 minutes of music. Cost: \$83

Pre-Classical Piano Sonatas — single movement sonatas by Soler, Scarlatti, Seixas, or other pre-classical composer not listed above. Participants may select sets of multiple works within this group equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 6 minutes of music. Cost: \$88

Piano Sonatas by “Sons of Bach” — Choose any number or combination of movements from a single sonata written by a composer of this group equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 6 minutes of music. Cost: \$88

Piano Sonatas of Other Composers — sonatas not qualifying in other groups, such as those by Dussek, Mateo Albéniz, Diabelli, Clementi, and similar composers. Choose any number or combination of movements from a single sonata written by a composer of this group equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 6 minutes of music. Cost: \$88

Piano Sonatas by W. A. Mozart — Choose any number or combination of movements from a single sonata equal to or less than the maximum duration. *Note: The “6 Viennese Sonatinas for piano KV 439b” are considered full sonatas for the purposes of category divisions in the Classical Viennese Festival International.* Up to 9 minutes of music. Cost: \$93

Piano Sonatas by F. J. Haydn — Choose any number or combination of movements from a single sonata equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 9 minutes of music. Cost: \$93

Piano Sonatas by L. v. Beethoven — Choose any number or combination of movements from a single sonata equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 9 minutes of music. Cost: \$93

Piano Sonatas by F. Schubert — Choose any number or combination of movements from a single sonata equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 9 minutes of music. Cost: \$93

Piano Variations of Classical Composers — Choose the theme and any number of consecutive variations within a single set (minimum: 3), equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 10 minutes of music. Cost: \$93

Miscellaneous Keyboard Works — Choose any one or more work(s) or movements, excluding movements of sonatinas, sonatas, or variations by any classical era composer, equal to or less than the maximum duration. *Inadmissible are virtuosic, dance, or character pieces representative of romantic era works, including (but not limited to) waltzes, impromptus, etudes. An example of inadmissible work considered “romantic” for all intents and purposes includes Weber’s Invitation To the Dance or Waltzes by Clementi.* Up to 10 minutes of music. Cost: \$88

Keyboard Concerto — Choose one or two movements from a concerto by a classical composer. Piano accompaniment need not be supplied. In such a case, the performer may exhibit his or her excerpts only, omitting tacit sections. One movement (no time limit), or two movements of 9 min in length total or less. Cost: \$93

Instrumental participants only, fully competitive (default):

Pre-Classical Instrumental Sonatas — single movement sonatas by Quantz, Schobert, Veracini, Zuccari, or other pre-classical composer not listed above. Participants may select sets of multiple works within this group equal to or less than the maximum duration. Piano accompaniment not required. Up to 6 minutes of music. Cost: \$88

Instrumental Sonatas of Classical Composers — sonatas by composers of the Classical era, such as those by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and similar composers. Choose any number or combination of movements from a single sonata that qualifies within this group equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 9 minutes of music. Piano accompaniment not required. Cost: \$93

Miscellaneous Instrumental Works — Choose any one or more work(s) or movements, excluding movements of sonatas or variations by any classical era composer, equal to or less than the maximum duration. *Inadmissible are virtuosic, dance, or character pieces representative of romantic era works, including (but not limited to) caprices, dances, and concert etudes.* Up to 10 minutes of music. Piano accompaniment not required. Cost: \$88

Classical Instrumental Duos — one or more movements from a single duet or duo by a classical era composer, such as those by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and similar composers. Choose any number or combination of movements from a single work that qualifies within this group equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 9 minutes of music. Cost: \$93

Instrumental Variations of Classical Composers — Choose the theme and any number of consecutive variations within a single set (minimum: 3), equal to or less than the maximum duration. Up to 10 minutes of music. Piano accompaniment not required. Cost: \$93

Instrumental Concerto — Choose one or two movements from a concerto by a classical era composer. Piano accompaniment need not be supplied. One movement (no time limit), or two movements of 9 min in length total or less. Cost: \$93

Instrumental or Concerto Accompaniment. The participant need not supply a piano accompanist for their video recording, but accompaniment is highly encouraged. In such a case, the performer may exhibit his or her excerpts only, omitting tacit sections, provided no edited cuts are involved in the video compilation (video footage must still conform the standards found in “Video Submission”, below).

Performers of all divisions and groups may opt to select *noncompetitive* participation. The purpose of *noncompetitive* participation is to encourage more performers who wish to pursue the festival for purely educational reasons, for a chance to receive feedback from adjudicators, or for those who may be participating for the first time in such an event. *Noncompetitive* participants may wish to use the opportunity to “wet their toes” with regard to a competitive experience, perhaps selecting a competitive option during future festivals. Noncompetitive participants will not have their video links published, and will receive participation certificates and adjudicator commentary. *Noncompetitive* participants are encouraged, but not required, to memorize their chosen selections for performance.

Age delineation is determined according to the published deadline of April 15, 2026. In the case of any change to the deadline, a participant's age on April 15 still determines the category of division. 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 choose to participate in more than one group; however, a separate accompanying application form and fee is required for each instance of participation.

The organizers reserve the right to divide exceptionally large groups into smaller sub-divisions based on age, sub-genre, number of movements, or any other criteria to help make participation more equitable. The organizers also reserve the right to reject applications that are incomplete or fail to adhere to the rules, standards, or style delineation; this can occur at any point during the festival period without prior notification. It is the sole responsibility of the participant to ensure completeness. The SIPF encourages participants to check all entries with one's primary instructor or write with questions to sipfchelsea@outlook.com prior to entry. No opportunity to re-submit will be offered after the deadline. All participants will receive an automated confirmation message with complete application info. The SIPF takes no responsibility for application transmission errors.

RULES

Applications

Applications are available online at <https://www.seattlepianocompetition.org/nw-festivals/application/classical-online-form/>. In order to be considered for participation, applications must be filled out correctly and completely and payment made. Please refer frequently to <https://www.seattlepianocompetition.org/nw-festivals/classical/> for any updates, errata, judges information, and results.

Applications must be submitted by 9:00 pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Participants should receive an electronic confirmation notice with summary of registration immediately upon submission. If no notice arrives in the email account you specify on the entry form arrives within 10 minutes, notify the festival staff by writing to sipfchelsea@outlook.com. The SIPF takes no responsibility for inaccurate, incomplete, or unsuccessful entry submissions.

The application fee is nonrefundable. In the case of entries rejected due to incomplete status or failure to adhere to rules or procedures after the entry deadline, a refund less a \$30 processing fee applies.

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 under categories that may include multiple movements or works (different movements or works are not required to be on the same video link). ***Participants familiar with previous editions no longer need to include a verbal introduction. However, the participant's name must be listed in the title of the link and/or in the contents description, and match exactly the name as it appears in the application form.***

Submit a recorded video between now and Wednesday, April 15 at 9:00 pm. If you choose to apply before you have prepared your video links, you may later return and submit your video via this [online submission form](#). Record your chosen selection as many times as you would like.

Recordings must conform to the following standards and procedures:

- Name matching the performer (exactly as included on the application form) must be clearly visible in the link title and/or the contents description (a briefly flashing caption bearing the performer's name does not satisfy this requirement, but may be included in addition to the stated requirement).
- 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 be cued to begin within five seconds of the start of the footage (may be edited to cut to a 5 second leader).
- Recordings must feature the work with which the participant originally entered on the application form (no changes to the stated repertoire will be allowed after applying).
- 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 the same as 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 sipfchelsea@outlook.com.

Repertoire

Participants are free to choose any works within the parameters defined in their chosen group. In cases of inconsistency, or uncertainty regarding a particular work, write to sipfchelsea@outlook.com with the subject title: REPERTOIRE RULING. Ruling requests must be made before the application deadline. Please allow for 3-5 days for a response.

Note that, except where specified, works submitted must adhere to the commonly understood delineation of the Classical era (works written ca 1750-1820). Works before or after this era will not be accepted, except where defined in specific groups (such as "Pre-Classical Sonatas").

Participants must perform works strictly from memory. Amateur and non-competitive soloists are encouraged, but exempt from performing by memory.

No change in repertoire is allowed after the application submission.

Note that movements are not subject to the time limits shown; however, multiple submitted movements must adhere to the total duration time cap shown within each participation group (for example, Piano Sonatas by Beethoven - 9 min). The only exception to the time limit cap is when a selected single movement or work exceeds the designated time limit (for example, a Piano Sonata with a first movement lasting 11 minutes will be acceptable).

Music Scores

Scores are not required for the online version of the 2026 Classical Viennese Festival International.

Prizes and Results

Within each category:

- a number of gold, silver, and bronze medal winners will be named, along with an indeterminate number of honorable mentions
- corresponding medals and certificates
- jurors may select a small number of special mentions
- the SIPF board reserves the right at its full discretion to invite area medalists to any future special concert events

In the *noncompetitive* divisions, the adjudicator reserves the right to award a star of special artist promise. All Age 7 non-competitive participants will receive gold stars and award diplomas. Any invitation to perform is based on the discretion of the SIPF board, and permission of the guardians of the performer as well as his/her instructor. Results will be published on the [awards page](#) on or shortly after April 29, 2026. Note that any deadline change will result in a later date for the publishing of results.

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 are prohibited from approaching, engaging with, or debating any aspect of the decision or his or her commentary with any juror at any time, whether through online or personal contact. Participants must furthermore treat the SIPF volunteers and

organizers with respect, and may not debate or question results or commentary. Failure to adhere to this rule may permanently disbar the participant and/or all students of a participant's teacher from future such festivals and competitions. Contacting an adjudicator directly is strictly prohibited.

Any words of appreciation, complaints, comments, or suggestions may be submitted in written form and mailed to: 58 Front Street N, Ste 200, Issaquah, WA 98027.

Distribution of Awards

Local area participants whose instructors reside in King County (in the case of multiple entrants from a single teacher) or participants who reside in King County (in the case of a unique application from a single teacher or participant currently not working with a teacher) may pick up their awards at a time and place to be announced after the conclusion of the adjudication process. Please allow 4 weeks time after the announcement of results (approximately May 29). After awards materials and comments are ready for distribution, the organizers will contact participants on how to arrange a pick up. Please do not contact any local area music stores regarding pick-up of festival materials. Participants of instructors outside of the King County, WA area will have materials couriered directly to his or her teacher, or directly to the participant in cases of individual participation or a participant without a current teacher. The SIPF reserves the right to assess an additional fee for international delivery (approximately \$14.50 USD). Without an additional international delivery fee, materials will not be distributed.

Application Checklist

Before filling out the application:

- ☐ Complete contact information, including emails for both participant and instructor
- ☐ Information of works to be performed, complete with opus or catalogue numbers (when available), tonalities, movement heading and tempo indications (usually in Italian), and accurate timings
- ☐ Click only once to submit
- ☐ Check that all information entered is accurate (you will receive a copy via email with this info)
- ☐ Write to sipfchelsea@outlook.com if you do not see an electronic confirmation within 10 minutes of applying, or you have found inaccuracies in the application
- ☐ Completed application by 9:00 pm, Wednesday, April 15, 2026, PST (GMT-8)

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 2026 Classical Viennese Festival International Rules, Information, and Application (herein referred to as "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 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 Classical Viennese Festival International 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 4 of the *"Classical Viennese Festival International 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 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 2026 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 5 of the Rules. By clicking the "I agree to the terms and conditions below" selection on the electronic application for the 2026 Classical Viennese Festival International, 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 2026 Classical Viennese Festival International, the participant fully affirms that the above statements in this agreement are true, and legally binding upon the participant.