

2026 Virtuoso Artists Festival International: Rules, Guidelines, and Agreement

Overview

The Seattle International Piano Festival (SIPF) announces the twelfth edition of the Virtuoso Artists Festival (recorded video edition) for pianists, instrumentalists, and chamber musicians featuring works from the Romantic to the Contemporary era. Participants of any age or nationality may participate.

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 2026 Virtuoso Artists Festival International also includes works from the Romantic era and later styles, as well as single- and multiple- work sub-divisions.

Application Deadline

This festival has been organized to accept participants and survey performances via video entry only, avoiding the need to congregate on a predetermined day. The application deadline is Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 9:00 PM (PST). Review of entries takes place over the 2 weeks following this deadline. Note that participants may opt to [register online](#) early without supplying a video link. A separate [online video entry](#) form is available for those participants who have registered prior to the deadline. June 17 at 9:00 PM also represents the last moment participants may submit links which will be appended to their registration form data.

Eligibility

The following age performance divisions and age categories delineate 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). The participant age category sets the total time duration limit according to the schedule below. Fee: \$88

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

Solo Division (piano or instrumentalist; choose one work representative of the Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary eras), **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)

Chamber Music Division (the eldest ensemble participant determines the age group for the entire ensemble; choose one or more 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

Concerto Division (piano or instrumentalist; choose one or more movements from a single solo concerto work within the Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary eras; accompaniment is not required; see above for age divisions; this division will be subdivided into piano entries and non-piano entries; one complete movement, or multiple movements not to exceed 15 minutes in total length; solo excerpts without tutti are permissible). This division further groups participants within the following age brackets. Fee: \$88

- ages 13 and under.
- ages 14 to 18.
- collegiate.
- adults, age 19 or older.
- professional.

To qualify within a given age category, participants must be the defined age as of June 17, 2026. In the case of any change to the deadline, a participant's age on June 17 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 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. Literature for two or three pianists at one piano (four- or six-hands) or two pianos 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 (this excludes works such as Brahms' string quartets arranged for piano, 4-hands). Likewise, arrangements from the solo concerto repertoire, or other soloist-with-orchestra genres are not considered 'Chamber Music.'

Repertoire

Participants are free to select any work or works for participation in the *Solo* or *Chamber Music* divisions that are conventionally considered within the romantic, impressionistic, and contemporary era. The SIPF advisory board reserves the right to refuse any selections that may challenge the prevailingly 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 sipfchelsea@outlook.com. 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. Multiple movements/minatures/selections chosen from the same superset 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. 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 admissible for the 2026 Virtuoso Artists Festival International within the Concerto Division.

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

Instrumental or Concerto Accompaniment. The participant need not supply a piano accompanist for their video recording, however, supplying an accompaniment is strongly encouraged. In such a cases as performance without accompaniment, 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).

Applications

Applications are only available online for completion at <http://www.seattlepianocompetition.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. Note that participants may opt to register online early without supplying a video link. A separate [online video entry](#) form is available for those participants who have registered prior to the deadline. June 17, 2026 at 9:00 PM also represents the last moment participants may submit links which will be appended to their registration form data. Please refer frequently to the SIPF website for updates, errata, adjudicator information, as well as results.

The application process begins now and closes **Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 9:00 pm Pacific Standard Time**.

All entry fees are 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 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, June 17 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 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) in the link title and/or the contents description, clearly visible (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 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 sipfchelsea@outlook.com

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 in a special announcement following the conclusion of the review process. Results will be posted on or shortly after July 1 on the [winners' page](#).

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

Note that the SIPF advisory board reserves the right to divide exceptionally large groups of participants within the *solo division* into smaller ones according to any method. All participants receive certificates of completion.

Each participant, his/her family, friends, and guests, and each teacher/coach must accept any juror's decision as final and unappealable. Attendees of the festival may not approach, engage with, or debate any aspect of the decision or his or her commentary with any juror, both before and after the performance event. 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.

All results are final and unappealable.

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 publication of results, or approximately July 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 outside of the driving range 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:

- 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 June 17, 2026)
- 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 June 17, you needn't include your performance links — these may be entered later on [this form](#))

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 Virtuoso Artists 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 Virtuoso Artists 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 Rules 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 4 of the Rules. By clicking the "I agree to the terms and conditions below" selection on the electronic application for the 2026 Virtuoso Artists 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 Virtuoso Artists Festival International, the participant fully affirms that the above statements in this agreement are true, and legally binding upon the participant.