



Festival Eligibility Requirements Repertory Information & Composition Prize Category Information

Applications for 2017 are now being accepted

- All events are open to the public.
- Only online applications will be accepted.
- Please read this page thoroughly before submitting application, sign-up and repertory forms.

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[Performance Only Application](#) (by April 30)

[Performance + Composition Application](#) by 4/30

[Repertory Submission Form](#) (by May 15)

Eligibility Requirements & info:

Contestants must be 19 years of age or younger at the festival start date: 6/7/17. We encourage students of all ages, performance levels and learning modalities to apply. See below for deadlines.

EXPANDED ENROLLMENT LIMIT

We were gratified with the high level of enthusiasm for the June 2016 festival. We have therefore extended the 2017 festival by one day (Wednesday) so as to allow for 40 (rather than 30) participants. The 2017 festival will run from June 7 through June 10. Early applications are encouraged. The non-refundable application fee will secure a place in the festival.

LIMIT OF 5 PER TEACHING STUDIO (until 11/15 only)

• **Early Bird "Hold My Place" Registration (until Nov. 15, 2016):** A limit of 5 students per teacher may register for the 2017 festival. Students, please obtain permission from your primary teacher, assuming you are taking lessons.

- In determining this limit of five, applications involving both solo and ensemble music will be counted toward the soloist's teacher only. In other words, if any ensemblists in solo/ensemble programs study with other teachers (i.e., not the soloist's teacher), this will not count toward those other teachers' overall count of five.

- However, programs involving only ensemble music (see [Piano Ensemble Option](#)) will be counted toward every teacher of the students involved regardless of the relative "weight" of each student's contribution to the program.

APRIL 30 DEADLINE

- **Standard Registration begins Nov. 16.**
- **DEADLINE is April 30 (earlier if max. enrollment of 40 is reached).**
- No limits per teaching studio after Nov. 15.

LATE ENROLLMENT

After 4/30/17 DEADLINE:

If maximum enrollment of 40 has not already been reached, entrants may pay a late fee of \$25 and enroll.

WAIT LIST

Students who submit a registration after our quota of 40 is reached can be placed on a waiting list.

If anyone cancels, students on the waiting list may be allowed to enroll.

PERMISSION TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED & RECORDED

IMPORTANT: By participating in the festival, all contestants give tacit permission to be photographed and/or recorded for purposes of education and publicity (e.g., postings on this website) or fundraising.

QUALIFYING FOR PRIZES*

To qualify for all prizes*, all entrants must:

- Be available to be adjudicated on any of the four festival days (June 7-10, 2017).
- Reasonable requests for special times due to conflicts will be considered but cannot be guaranteed.
- Please communicate conflicts AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.
 - Attend a minimum of 3 other adjudications (in addition to their own).
 - Attend the Friday evening (June 9) 7 PM concert.
 - Perform in the Saturday (June 10) 5 PM Celebration of Students' Best Recital.
 - Be present throughout the subsequent Awards Ceremony (Sat. 8:30 PM, June 10).

**Students who cannot meet all qualifying requirements may, at the discretion of the [Artistic Director](#), qualify for honorable mention prizes only.*

APPLICATION FEE

- Basic application fee is **\$95**
- If a written composition is also being submitted ([Performance + Composition Application](#)), total application fee is **\$150** (\$95 basic fee + \$55 written composition fee).
- Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE (unless student cannot be accepted into the festival).

ATTIRE

Please wear suitable formal or semiformal attire. Long dresses and tuxedos are optional, not required.

Repertory Information Summary - [COMPLETE REPERTORY INFO \(click here\)](#)

15-MINUTE LIMIT - ANYTHING GOES

- Students may play as few or as many selections as desired (in any style[s]), providing the repertory does not exceed **15 minutes**.
- There is **no minimum** repertory requirement.

MEMORY?

Contestants may perform with or without music (judges are instructed that memory is not by itself a factor in evaluations).

PLEASE MARK MEASURES

- **Measures should be numbered in all copies of the music. A number indication per line of music is sufficient.**
- **A legal copy of all music** (not photocopied, unless music is original, unpublished and/or uncopyrighted - e.g., public domain) **must be provided for the judges.** Exception: If original music played by the contestant is not notated (*we prefer* that original music be notated & music provided, but it's not required). [Details here.](#)

SUBMISSION OF REPERTORY (15-minute limit)

Submission of student's program is a separate [Adjudication Program Submission Form](#).

Deadline to submit program is **May 15, 2017** (mark your calendars).

No changes (except deletions & corrections/clarifications for accuracy) can be made after **May 28**.

IMPORTANT INFO FOR THOSE SUBMITTING A WRITTEN COMPOSITION

Deadline: 4/30/17

[\(Performance + Composition Application\) by 4/30/17](#)

BEST ORIGINAL WRITTEN COMPOSITION(S) CATEGORY (OPTIONAL)

- FINALISTS' WORKS ARE PERFORMED BY THE JUDGES & CONSIDERED FOR WEB POSTING OR PUBLICATION BY ABUNDANT SILENCE

Call for Written Scores

Festival contestants are invited to submit one original composition in any style (max. 7 minutes duration) in fully notated form ([Finale](#) or [Sibelius](#) preferred, PDF export from other program acceptable), for one of the following:

1) Solo piano

2) Piano ensemble - for one, two or three pianos (3rd piano contingent on space and availability), for no more than three performers

or

3) Piano & one other instrument (any range/style)*

***Students writing for piano & voice need not provide a vocalist; the festival directors will arrange for one or more professional vocalist(s) to perform piano/voice compositions.**

However, if a student prefers to bring a vocalist, please inform the directors as far in advance as possible and ensure that the vocalist is high caliber, well prepared and available for rehearsal as well as performance on Thursday, June 8 (7 PM) in the event that the piece is chosen as a BEST WRITTEN COMPOSITION finalist.

***IMPORTANT:** With non-vocal works (e.g., piano & flute, piano & violin, etc.), the student alone is responsible for providing a high caliber and well-prepared collaborative musician who can rehearse and perform the piece (if selected as a finalist) with a festival judge on Thursday June 8th.*

Preferred: Music that is both artistic and commercially viable as teaching/performing repertory.

Judges Perform Finalists' Compositions

Festival judges will perform up to approx. five submitted compositions in a mini-recital on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 7 PM.

Web Postings and/or Formal Publications

All Finalist compositions will be considered for web posting or formal publication by [Abundant Silence](#). These decisions will be made solely by Mr. Luke Rackers, Founder and Executive Director of [Abundant Silence](#). Decisions will be announced at the Saturday evening Awards Ceremony, June 10. If any pieces are accepted for web posting or publication, it is the responsibility of the student composer (if of legal age) or the student's parents/guardians to accept or decline publishing contracts offered by [Luke Rackers](#). We are grateful to Mr. Rackers for his enthusiastic support for this award initiative.

Prize Certificates that May Be Awarded

- **"FINALIST: BEST WRITTEN COMPOSITION"** (for all students whose pieces are selected for performance by the judges)
- **"BEST WRITTEN COMPOSITION ACCEPTED FOR WEB POSTING"** (to be determined by Luke Rackers and, if awarded, announced at the Awards Ceremony)
- **"BEST WRITTEN COMPOSITION ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION"** (to be determined by Luke Rackers and, if awarded, announced at the Awards Ceremony)

This prize category does not involve monetary awards.

However, Abundant Silence pays royalties pursuant to the sale of published music as well as possible recordings.

Electronic Submissions Only

Compositions must be submitted electronically in the application form ([Finale](#) ".mus" or ".musx" file is best; [Sibelius](#) ".SIB" file is also good; PDF or word files of typeset or scan of handwritten score is acceptable but less desirable) by no later than April 30th, 2017. See [application page](#).

Notification of Finalists by May 20, 2017

Students will be notified no later than May 20 as to which compositions will be performed by the judges. However, announcements regarding possible web postings and/or publication will be made only at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 10.

Feedback by Experts

All composition submissions (including non-finalists) will receive written constructive feedback by one or more of the judges, Luke Rackers, and/or the directors - specifically: comments on the strengths of each piece along with suggestions for improvement where applicable.

Application Process & Additional Info

- **IMPORTANT:** To be eligible for this award category, students must:
 1. Submit a **supplemental processing fee of \$55** (in addition to the festival's standard \$95) in the payment page after submitting the application online.
 2. Submit an [online application](#).
 3. Meet all [eligibility requirements for prizes](#).
- Written composition submissions do not count toward students' 15-minute adjudication program limits.
- Because all festival participants are required to perform in the Celebrations of Students' Best recital, they cannot vie for this "written composition" category alone. All students must perform in person and be adjudicated at the festival. There are two application forms: [Performer Only](#) and [Performer + Composer](#). There is no stand-alone Composer application.
- Finalists for this "Written Composition" category cannot also perform the selected piece on their adjudication. If, however, a composition is not selected (to be determined by May 20), students are free to perform that piece on their adjudication if they wish. (Deadline for repertory submission is May 15, but changes can be made until May 28.)

No Previously Published/Submitted Pieces

- Previously published compositions (or pieces already accepted for publication) are not eligible for submission.
- Compositions that were performed by contestants in previous adjudications in the Festival for Creative Pianists will not be considered for this category, which is intended to spur new compositions. (Possible exception: Significantly revised works - contact the directors for permission.)
- Finalists' compositions (those performed by the judges) in previous years cannot be submitted unless the works are considerably revised and/or arranged differently; students/teachers are advised to contact the directors well in advance to get permission in such cases.

Authenticity of Compositions

It is expected that students will get a reasonable degree of help in the composition process. However, we rely on the integrity of contestants, teachers and parents/guardians to ensure that compositions submitted are original and written solely by the contestant.

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