



The Festival for Creative Pianists

www.pianofestival.org

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- **Eligibility:**

Pianists up to age 19 (as of 6/6/18) from anywhere in the world.
Deadline: April 15, 2018 (or earlier if max. enrollment of 40-45 is reached)

- **SPECIAL WRITTEN COMPOSITION (SEPARATE & OPTIONAL) CATEGORY:**

Judges perform Finalists' works
Abundant Silence considers top piece(s) for web posting or publication

- **Philosophy and unique educational mission:**

This festival is the only competition of its kind in the world, encompassing classical, jazz and other musical idioms in a constructive educational setting. Students compete for **standard baroque through contemporary repertory prizes**, as well as for **novel prizes** that promote neglected but important abilities and repertory - e.g., **improvisations** (any style), **original concerto cadenzas & classical embellishing** (skills demonstrated by nearly all great composers yet seldom seen today), **versatility** (needed to thrive in today's competitive market), **lyricism** (usually overshadowed by "loud and fast" playing), **original compositions** (too few venues exist for young serious composers), works by **female composers** (underrepresented), tasteful **arrangements & transcriptions** (often disallowed in other venues), etc.

We seek to foster diverse and well-rounded musicianship that goes beyond the mere "autonomic wizardry" featured in most other competitions. Above all, pianists are urged to develop and showcase their unique talents and perform with **individuality, personality, exuberance, originality and spontaneity**.

- **Judges/clinicians:**

World-class artist/teachers adjudicate students and provide constructive written and verbal feedback. Adjudicators are experts in both classical and jazz/pop styles as well as all forms of improvisation.

- **Participants & repertory:**

40 to 45 students max.; early applications accepted as of 9/1/17.
Students play **up to 15 minutes** of *any* repertory: piano solo, piano ensembles, or concerto repertory, including movements of pieces (specified chamber repertory also qualifies).

- **When & where:**

June 6-9, 2018 in Denver, CO

- **Donations have tax benefits:**

<http://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-donation.html>