



## The Festival for Creative Pianists

[www.pianofestival.org](http://www.pianofestival.org)

Evelyn Billberg, Program Director: [ev.billberg@gmail.com](mailto:ev.billberg@gmail.com) or ph: 303-629-9209  
Arthur Houle, Artistic Director: [arthurhoule@cableone.net](mailto:arthurhoule@cableone.net) or ph: 208.343.4320  
Luke Rackers, Executive Director, Abundant Silence: [luke@abundantsilence.org](mailto:luke@abundantsilence.org)

- **When & where:**

June 5-8, 2019 in Denver, CO: Classic Pianos, Rockley Recital Hall, & Schmitt Music

- **Eligibility & Online Registration:**

Pianists up to age 19 (as of 6/5/19) from anywhere in the world

Deadline: April 28, 2019 or earlier if enrollment cap of 40 is reached

Early registration begins 10/31/18: [www.abundantsilence.org/festival-homepage.html](http://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-homepage.html)

- **Adjudication program criteria:**

Students play **up to 15 minutes**: anything for piano solo, piano ensembles, or concerto repertory, including movements of pieces (specified chamber repertory also qualifies).

- **Artist adjudicators/clinicians:**

World-class artist/teachers adjudicate students and provide constructive written and verbal feedback. Our renowned adjudicators are experts in both classical and jazz/pop styles as well as diverse forms of creativity.

- **Philosophy and unique educational mission:**

We encourage traditional classical pianists to participate; demonstrations of creativity are not required. However, to maximize potential for prizes, students are also encouraged to showcase eclectic musicianship that goes beyond conventional classical performance.

This one-of-a-kind festival encompasses all music styles/genres in a highly supportive and educational setting. Students compete for **standard baroque through contemporary repertory prizes**, as well as for **novel prizes** that promote neglected but important skills and repertory - e.g., **improvisations** (any style), **original concerto cadenzas & classical embellishing** (demonstrated by nearly all great composers yet rarely seen today), **versatility** (needed to thrive in today's competitive market), **lyricism** (often 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 settings), etc.

Above all, pianists are urged to develop their unique talents and perform with **individuality, personality, exuberance, originality and spontaneity**.

- **Written composition option:**

Judges perform written composition finalists' works in the Thursday evening recital.

Abundant Silence/judges consider finalists' works for special awards.

- **Educational links for teachers/students:** [www.pianofestival.org/prizes/prizeembellish.htm](http://www.pianofestival.org/prizes/prizeembellish.htm)

- **Donations have tax benefits:** [www.abundantsilence.org/festival-donation.html](http://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-donation.html)