

52nd WILLIAM C. BYRD YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Our mission is to provide an annual competition with performance opportunities designed to help launch musical careers.

Eligibility

- A. The Competition is international in scope and accepts up to 30 musicians. Instrumentalists cannot be older than 32, and vocalists cannot be older than 35 on the day of the Competition. Contestants cannot have a manager or agent.
- B. Each contestant must submit a completed application form with the following required enclosures by Wednesday, January 17, 2024:
 1. Completed application and housing form.
 2. Two letters of recommendation which may be sent separately.
 3. A résumé and a brief biography (90 to 110 words), highlighting history of study, honors, solo performances, reviews and programs.
 4. One color photo of yourself suitable for music publication, not smaller than 3" by 5."
 5. A complete recording such as all concerto movements on a DVD, CD or flash drive of the music you plan to perform in the competition (no mp3 recordings, please). The selection should be a minimum 15 minutes. Put the title(s) and name of composer on your recording, but do NOT add any information to your recording that would identify you by name or photo. **Your music selection must be written for your instrument and full orchestra.** Your recording can have piano or orchestra accompaniment, but only piano accompaniment will be used during the competition. Your recording will be used by a preliminary judge who will limit the field to 30 contestants, and your recording will not be returned to you.
 6. A check or money order payable to the St. Cecilia Society for the registration fee of \$75us and an additional fee of \$200us (\$275us total) if you wish to use the St. Cecilia Society accompanist. (Applicants not accepted into the competition will have their \$200 and music score returned.) The \$200 entitles the contestant to an hour practice session with the accompanist the day before the competition. Send a clean, store purchased or gently used copy of your music with the application if you plan to use the St. Cecilia Society accompanist. Securing an accompanist cannot be guaranteed after February 4th of the competition year.
- C. Applications MUST BE RECEIVED no later than Wednesday, January 17, 2024 by The W. C. Byrd Competition, c/o the Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503. For more information, contact Mrs. Carol Hinterman, Chairman at 810-964-9399 or chairman@byrdartists.com.
- D. Contestants will be notified of the results of the preliminary round by the first week of February.

Judges

A preliminary judge limits the field of contestants to not more than 30 after reviewing the recorded performances. A jury of three distinguished musicians will serve as judges at the auditions and final competition. The decision of the judges is final. If a contestant has studied with or had close professional or personal ties with a judge, the judge will be requested to recuse himself/herself for that contestant, and the scores from the other two judges will be averaged to provide a third score.

Auditions

- A. Auditions will be held throughout the day **Saturday, March 2, 2024** beginning at 8:00 a.m. (may vary). Contestants shall be known to the judges only by number. Bring a store purchased score or library copy for the judges to use during the audition. The music will be returned to you following your audition. Auditions are open to the public.
- B. Time slots and contestant numbers will be assigned soon after the acceptance letters are mailed. Contestants perform for a full 10 minutes at the audition.
- C. Contestants must memorize and be prepared to perform all of their selected music (e.g. all movements of a concerto).
- D. Five Finalists will be selected at the close of the auditions. The finals will be held the same day beginning at 7:00 p.m. and open to the public at no cost. Finalists will be introduced by name to the judges and audience at the conclusion of the evening program.
- E. The finals are presented as a formal program. Contestants selected into the finals are required to wear appropriate attire for the evening presentation and be prepared to perform their entire music selection.

Prizes*

- A. The First Place Winner will receive \$6,000 and must sign a contract to appear with the Flint Symphony Orchestra, a professional orchestra. \$3,000 will be presented by the St. Cecilia Society immediately after the competition. The remaining \$3,000 will be awarded after the performance with the Flint Symphony Orchestra. Failure to fulfill this engagement will result in forfeiture of the \$3,000. A First Place Winner is not eligible to return for future competitions.
- B. A Second Prize of \$2,500 will be awarded. Should the First Place Winner be unable to perform with the orchestra, the Second Place Winner will be expected to fulfill this engagement, and will be paid \$3,000 for this performance.
- C. The other three finalists will each receive \$1,000.

* Please note: All prizewinners must complete appropriate IRS (Internal Revenue Service) forms to receive disbursement of prize monies. For details, see www.ByrdArtists.com.

General Information

- A. Lunch (11 a.m.–2 p.m.) and dinner (5:30 p.m.) will be served free of charge to all contestants and accompanists. Finalists will be announced at the dinner.
- B. Housing by volunteers in the community will be available. Requests for housing should be made with the attached application.
- C. For those who wish to book a hotel room, reservations may be made with the Holiday Inn Express of Flint (810.238.7744) located two blocks from the Dort Music Center. Hotel transportation is complementary.
- D. Practice room assignments will be available at the competition check-in desk from noon until 7:15pm on Friday, March 1, 2024, and warm-up rooms will be assigned one hour before a contestant's audition on Saturday, March 2, 2024.
- E. In the event that competition staff cannot be contacted, the Flint Institute of Music security office will receive urgent messages at 810.238.1350 ext 7.

