

Eligibility / Application Requirements / Repertoire

ELIGIBILITY

The National Chopin Piano Competition of the U.S. is designed to offer performance opportunities and financial support for young American pianists and to enable Prize Winners to take part in the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland. Initiated in 1975, and held in Miami every five years, the National Competition closely follows the regulations and requirements of the International Chopin Competition.

The Competition is open to pianists holding U.S. citizenship (native born or naturalized), born between 1985 and 1999, representing a professional level of performance.

Finalists of selected piano competitions* may be admitted to this competition without having to participate in a selection process, as long as they meet the below mentioned requirements and submit a properly completed application with all attachments. (Previous First Prize Winners of this Competition are not eligible.)

*List of selected competitions:

- Queen Elisabeth of Belgium International Music Competition
- Ignace J. Paderewski International Piano Competition
- Van Cliburn International Piano Competition
- Cleveland International Piano Competition
- Hamamatsu International Piano Competition
- Leeds International Piano Competition
- Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition
- Santander International Piano Competition
- Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition
- American Pianists Association's Classical Fellowship

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following should be included with the completed application form:

1. Proof of age and of U.S. citizenship (i.e. a scan of a birth certificate or passport)
2. Two letters of recommendation from renowned pianists and/or teachers of national standing stating that the applicant is prepared to enter the Competition. The recommendation letters may be uploaded and submitted with your application if it is written on the recommender's letterhead with his/her personal signature. Or they can be mailed directly to the Chopin Foundation (1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117, Miami, FL 33141) – postmarked on or before November 3, 2014; or emailed to info@chopin.org directly from the recommender, with a date on or before November 3, 2014.
3. Copies of diplomas and/or certificates from schools of music.
4. Two current color photographs, including at least one head-shot, to be used in the Competition's publicity materials. Must be in a format that can be uploaded (hi-res 300 dpi; accepted format: jpg, gif, bmp, jpeg.)
5. A short biography of the applicant (up to 1,000 characters) and documents showing artistic activities and achievements for the last three years (reviews, concert programs, awards, etc.).
6. A **VIDEO** recording containing (a) complete program required for Stage I of the Ninth National Chopin Piano Competition (see Repertoire Stage I listing), and (b) one Mazurka chosen from the following opuses: 17, 24, 30, 33, 41, 50, 56, 59.

The pieces may be performed in any order except the Etudes from groups a) and b), which have to be played one after the other.

The recording must be made by a single camera, with no cuts during the performance of the work, right profile to the camera, with the pianist's whole silhouette and hands visible. Please include a list of the recorded pieces in order, including the edition of Chopin's works used, and the duration of each piece, uploaded as a separate document.

PLEASE NOTE: All video's must be uploaded to the Chopin Foundation's Accepted website. No DVDs will be accepted. Applicants should use the best possible video/audio equipment to record the video files. These uploaded files will be the first and only opportunity for applicants to display their abilities for the Selection Committee. They should be of the highest possible quality to create a positive impression. Be sure your setting is appropriate, the piano is in good tune and the sound quality professionally reflects your musicality.

7. Application Fee: \$100

An application form, along with all required material, must be submitted online via Accepted.com and received by the Chopin Foundation by November 3, 2014.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

A candidate who has supplied misinformation on his or her application or on the attached material will be automatically disqualified.

The Selection Committee, consisting of acclaimed American pianists, will select not more than 26 contestants and up to 4 alternates. All applicants will be notified by email of acceptance or rejection by January 1, 2015. **This notification will constitute an agreement between the Chopin Foundation of the U.S. and the candidate concerning his/her admission and participation in the Ninth National Chopin Piano Competition, in accordance with the rules specified herein.**

PLEASE NOTE: a separate application needs to be submitted to the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw by December 1, 2014.

More information at: <http://konkurs.chopin.pl/en>

ACCEPTED CONTESTANTS

1. Travel expenses to and from Miami are the responsibility of the contestants. They will be housed in private homes; practice facilities and local transportation provided.
2. Contestants not advanced to the next round are not obliged to stay for the remainder of the Competition, but are invited to do so.
3. Contestants must arrive in Miami no later than 12 noon on Thursday, February 19, 2015. Transportation from the airport will be arranged.
4. Upon arrival, contestants will immediately register by calling 305/868-0624 or sending an email to admin@chopin.org
5. All contestants will be required to attend a briefing session and at the same meeting draw for the order of performance for all stages of the Competition through the Semi-Finals. The contestants will also make a choice of the piano (Steinway or Yamaha.)
6. The Chopin Foundation reserves the right to produce and distribute, without restriction or fee, audio or video recordings of the entire Competition or parts thereof, including the Finals.
7. Sessions may, by permission of the Competition Committee, be:
 - a) broadcast live on radio/television/internet;
 - b) filmed and/or recorded on film, tapes and records for subsequent broadcast, telecast or film documentary;
 - c) photographed by and for the press or for other publicity purposes, all without fee to the participants.

8. The Competition Repertoire must be played from memory.

9. The texts of all available editions of Chopin's works are admissible; however, the organizer recommends the Urtext of the *National Edition of the Works of Fryderyk Chopin* (ed. Professor Jan Ekier).

10. Contestants are obliged to specify in their applications the edition of Chopin's works they will be using and the exact timing of each work.

11. A contestant may alter his/her program for any stage of the Competition by informing the Chopin Foundation of the change by January 31, 2015.

12. The same piece cannot be played in different stages of the Competition.

13. The First-Prize Winner will be responsible to appear in all concert engagements arranged by the Chopin Foundation.

JURY

1. The Competition Jury will consist of nationally and internationally acclaimed musicians.

2. Jurors will disqualify themselves in the case of contestants who are related to them or have had a direct personal or professional relationship at any time during the five years preceding the Competition.

3. The Jury makes final decisions as to awarding prizes and distinctions.

4. The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

5. The Competition Director's decisions are final on all matters outside the competence of the Competition Jury.

Additional Rules:

All Competition performances, held in three stages and the finals, will be open to the public. The Jury will advance to the second stage not more than 18 contestants, not more than 12 to the semifinals, and up to six to the finals.

REPERTOIRE

Stage I

1. Two Etudes, one from each group (a & b) indicated below:

a) From Op. 10: C major No.1, C-sharp minor No.4, G-flat major No. 5, F major No. 8, C minor No. 12;
From Op. 25: A minor No. 11.

b) From Op. 10: A minor No. 2; C major No. 7, A-flat major No. 10, E-flat major No. 11;
From Op. 25: A minor No. 4, E minor No. 5, G-sharp minor No. 6, and B minor No. 10.

2. One of the following pieces:

- Nocturne in B major, Op. 9 No. 3
- Nocturne in C sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 1
- Nocturne in D flat major, Op. 27 No. 2
- Nocturne in G major, Op. 37 No. 2
- Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48 No. 1
- Nocturne in F sharp minor, Op. 48, No. 2
- Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 55 No. 2
- Nocturne in B major, Op. 62 No. 1
- Nocturne in E major, Op. 62 No. 2
- Etude in E major, Op. 10 No. 3
- Etude in E flat minor, Op. 10 No. 6
- Etude in C sharp minor, Op. 25 No. 7

3. One of the following pieces:

- Ballade in G minor, Op. 23
- Ballade in F major, Op. 38
- Ballade in A flat major, Op. 47
- Ballade in F minor, Op. 52
- Barcarole in F sharp major, Op. 60
- Fantasia in F minor, Op. 49
- Scherzo in B minor, Op. 20
- Scherzo in B flat minor, Op. 31
- Scherzo in C sharp minor, Op. 39
- Scherzo in E major, Op. 54

The pieces may be performed in any order except the Etudes from groups a) and b), which have to be played one after the other.

Stage II

1. One of the following pieces:

- Ballade in G minor, Op. 23
- Ballade in F major, Op. 38
- Ballade in A flat major, Op. 47
- Ballade in F minor, Op. 52
- Barcarole in F sharp major, Op. 60
- Fantasia in F minor, Op. 49
- Scherzo in B minor, Op. 20
- Scherzo in B flat minor, Op. 31
- Scherzo in C sharp minor, Op. 39
- Scherzo in E major, Op. 54
- Polonaise-Fantaisie in A flat major, Op. 61

2. One of the following Waltzes:

- in E flat major, Op. 18
- in A flat major, Op. 34 No. 1
- in F major, Op. 34 No. 3
- in A flat major, Op. 42
- in A flat major, Op. 64 No. 3

3. One of the following Polonaises:

- Andante Spianato and Polonaise in E flat major, Op. 22
- Polonaise in F sharp minor, Op. 44
- Polonaise in A flat major, Op. 53
- both Polonaises from Op. 26

4. Any piece or pieces by Fryderyk Chopin (if the hitherto performed part of the repertoire does not exhaust the minimum time limit indicated below).

Performing time in the second stage:

30–40 minutes.

Competitors who played one of the Scherzos in the first stage, in the second stage should choose another genre from the first group. The pieces may be performed in any order (except Op. 26). Should the contestant overrun the time limit, the Jury may stop his/her performance.

Stage III

1. Sonata in B flat minor, Op. 35 or Sonata in B minor, Op. 58, or all Preludes, Op. 28. Repetition of the exposition in the first movement of the B minor Sonata should be left out; repetition of the first movement of the B flat minor Sonata is optional.

2. Full set of Mazurkas from the following opuses:

17, 24, 30, 33, 41, 50, 56, 59

Mazurkas must be played in the order they are numbered in the opus. In the case of opuses 33 and 41 the following number applies:

Op. 33:

G-sharp minor No.1

C major No. 2

D major No. 3

B minor No. 4

Op. 41:

E minor No. 1

B major No. 2

A-flat major No. 3

C-sharp minor No.

3. Any piece or pieces by Fryderyk Chopin (if the hitherto performed part of the repertoire does not exhaust the minimum time limit indicated below).

Performing time in the third stage: 50–60 minutes.

The pieces may be performed in any order (except the Mazurkas and the Preludes). Should the contestant overrun the time limit, the Jury may stop his/her performance.

Finals

One of the following Concertos:

E minor, Op. 11 or F minor, Op. 21.

The finalists will perform with orchestra.

The competition repertoire contains solely works by Frédéric Chopin