

*The 2026 International Competition for Piano will consist of two rounds. For the preliminary round, contestants will submit a YouTube video of a movement from their chosen concerto. The final round will be conducted live before a panel of judges. See **HOW TO APPLY** below for complete instructions.*

## **Dates and Deadlines**

- **Application deadline:** January 2, 2026, 11:59 PM CST.
- **E-mail notification of Preliminary Round results:** January 14, 2026.
- **Deadline for Finalists to indicate their intention to compete in the live finals:** February 3, 2026, 5:00 PM CST.
- **Deadline for Finalists to pay the \$100 accompanist fee if using our competition accompanist:** February 3, 2026, 5:00 PM CST.
- **Rehearsal with pianist:** FRIDAY March 6, 2026. Contestants using the Symphony Accompanist are required to arrive on Thursday. NO EXCEPTIONS. Contestants using the Competition accompanist will not be rescheduled if they insist on arriving on Friday and thus miss their scheduled rehearsal time. There will be no refund of the accompanist fee once the February 3rd deadline has passed. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in losing part or all of your scheduled Friday rehearsal time. The Competition cannot reschedule rehearsals, accompanists, and rehearsal spaces to accommodate flight delays or cancellations. Loss of rehearsal time will not result in any refund of the accompanist fee.
- **Live Final Round:** March 7, 2026.

## **Eligibility**

- The 2026 competition is open to all pianists 18 - 30 years of age as of the March 7, 2026, audition date.
- Competitors must be enrolled at an accredited university, college, or conservatory as of March 7, 2026, audition date.
- Competitors may not be students of any of the judges. See the symphony website [www.lewisvillesymphony.org](http://www.lewisvillesymphony.org) for information on the judges.

## **Prize Winners**

- The First Place Winner will receive \$2,000 plus an appearance as soloist with the Lewisville Lake Symphony in September 2023, on the opening concert of the 2026-2027 season. The prize money will be awarded on the night of the performance.
- The Second Place Winner will receive \$1,000, to be awarded on the day of the competition.
- The Third Place Winner will receive \$500, to be awarded on the day of the competition.
- If for any reason the First Place Winner is unable to perform with the Symphony on the September 2026 concert, he/she automatically forfeits the prize money and Symphony performance. The First Place award will fall to the Second Place winner.

- Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the March 7, 2026, Final Live Auditions Round at a reception in the Graham Green Room of the UNT College of Music.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- **The symphony cannot pay transportation or housing expenses for the Live Final Round or the symphony performance.**

### **The Competition - Preliminary/Pre-screening Round**

- The deadline for all applications to the Competition is 11:59 PM CST January 2, 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.
- The preliminary round will be judged from YouTube videos submitted by applicants no later than midnight January 2, 2026. Contestants will be notified of the preliminary round results by email by January 15, 2026. Only one movement of the concerto is required for the YouTube submission. **The full concerto is required for the finals.**

### **HOW TO APPLY**

- Step 1. The Preliminary/Pre-screening Round.
  - Upload a high-quality audio+video of one or more movement(s) of a concerto from the approved repertoire list (see Repertoire below).
  - The video selections must be accompanied by either piano or orchestra. An applicant's teacher is not allowed to accompany the contestant on the video.
  - Contestants who are currently studying with any of the judges may not apply.
  - The video must have been made during 2025, not before.
  - The video must show the hands and face of the contestant.
  - The video must be continuous and unedited, including breaks between movements if the complete concerto is submitted.
  - The contestant must play from memory.
- Step 2. Additional application requirements
  - Age verification. Documents accepted as proof of date-of-birth include: a legible copy of a valid driver's license, a passport ID page, or birth certificate.
  - A resume.
  - A high-quality photograph preferably in JPG format.

### **The Competition - Final Round (Saturday, March 7, 2026)**

- The final round will be a live audition on March 7, 2026, before a panel of distinguished judges on the campus of the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. The complete concerto is required for the final round.
- Contestants will remain anonymous (including name, school, and teacher) to the judges and the audience until the results are announced. In order to maintain maximum anonymity, the contestant's teacher may not be the accompanist for either the YouTube round or the Final round.

- Up to 10 contestants from the Preliminary/Pre-Screening Round will be invited to the Final Live Auditions Round on Saturday, March 7, 2026. The live auditions will take place between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
- Contestants accepted to the Final Live Auditions Round must indicate their intention to compete in the Final Round no later than Friday, February 3, 2026, 5:00 PM. Contestants who accept the invitation to compete in the Final Round will be notified by email as to their live audition time on March 7.
- For rules on accompanists, see Accompanists below.

### **Approved Repertoire**

Beethoven	Concerto No. 4 or 5
Brahms	Concerto No. 1 or 2
Liszt	Totentanz
MacDowell	Concerto No. 2
Prokofiev	Concerto No. 3
Rachmaninoff	Concerto No. 1, 2, or 3
Ravel	Concerto in G Major
Saint-Saens	Concerto No. 2
Shostakovich	Concerto No. 1 or 2
Tchaikovsky	Concerto No. 1

### **Location**

- The auditions will be held at Voertman Hall, College of Music, University of North Texas College of Music, 415 Avenue C, Denton 76201.

### **Entry Fee**

- There is a non-refundable application fee of \$115, payable through Acceptd.

### **Accompanists**

- In the Final Live Auditions Round, contestants may provide their own pianist or use an experienced collaborative pianist provided through the Competition. If using a Competition pianist, a \$100 fee will be required by the acceptance deadline, February 3, 2026. This is to cover the live audition as well as provide a one-hour rehearsal with the pianist on Friday, March 6, the day before the audition. The accompanist fee is paid through ACCEPTD and must be received by February 3, 2026. This fee is NON-REFUNDABLE.
- Contestants using the Competition pianist should plan to arrive by Thursday night, as rehearsals will begin at 10:00 AM on Friday. NO EXCEPTIONS. An applicant's teacher is not allowed to accompany the contestant in the Final Round.

**Transportation and Accommodation**

- Transportation and accommodations are the responsibility of the contestants and of the winner performing on the September 2026 Symphony Series concert.

**Reception**

- The Symphony and the College of Music will hold a reception in the Green Room, adjacent to the Voertman Hall after the event on March 7.

For further information contact [chair@lewisvillesymphony.org](mailto:chair@lewisvillesymphony.org)