



# A STEP TOWARDS MASTERY

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF YOUNG PIANISTS

## The 13-th international competition of young pianists «A STEP TOWARDS MASTERY»

7–14, June 2023

St. Petersburg, RUSSIA

Member of the European Union of Music Competitions for Youth

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### FOUNDERS

Committee of Culture of St. Petersburg  
Administration of the Frunzensky District of St. Petersburg  
School of Arts for Children № 4, St. Petersburg

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### CONTACTS

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### TERMS OF THE COMPETITION COMPETITION PROCEDURES

1. THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION of young pianists «A STEP TOWARDS MASTERY» will be held in St. Petersburg from 7 to 14 June 2023.
2. VENUE OF THE COMPETITION: St. Petersburg.
3. THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE STATUS OF THE PARTICIPANT (for example: music school, higher school, academy, conservatory or private education).
4. THE AGE OF THE PARTICIPANTS shall be up to 19 years inclusive.
5. THE COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS SHALL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE AGE CATEGORIES:  
CATEGORY A – participants whose age shall be up to 11 years inclusive (born after 14 June, 2011),  
CATEGORY B – from 12 to 15 years inclusive (born after 14 June, 2007),  
CATEGORY C – from 16 to 19 years inclusive (born after 14 June, 2003).
6. THE ORDER OF THE PARTICIPANT'S PERFORMANCE shall be established by drawing lots. In the draw, the contestants of the category «A» and «B» involved personally. The contestants of the category «C» – online (date to be announced later).
7. THE COMPETITION IS HELD IN THREE ROUNDS with a qualifying stage:  
qualifying stage – based on the submitted video materials;

I and II rounds – performance of solo programs;  
 III round – performance with a symphony orchestra.

**8. THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF THE COMPETITION:**

- The qualifying round is from 1 to 15 April 2023.
- I and II rounds – from June 7 to June 12, 2023, the Concert Hall of «St. Petersburg Children's Art School No. 4» (Bukharetskaya str., 35, korp. 1, St. Petersburg). The concert hall has a capacity of 350 seats. Grand piano «STEINWAY & SONS».
- Round III – June 13, 2023, beginning at 19:00, Concert Hall of the State Academic Capella of St. Petersburg (20 Moika River Embankment).
- The closing ceremony of the competition and the concert of the laureates – June 14, 2023, beginning at 16:00, Small Philharmonic Hall named after I. M.I. Glinka (Nevsky prospect, 30).

**9. NO MORE THAN 2/3 OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE FIRST ROUND GO TO THE SECOND ROUND.**

IN THE THIRD ROUND PASSES:

- category «A» – no more than 4 participants;
- category «B» – no more than 3 participants;
- category «C» – no more than 3 participants.

**10. THE COMPETITION WINNERS** shall take part in the final concert. The exclusive right for video, audio records and photography belongs to the Organizing Committee of the Competition. No honorariums are paid to the participants for video or audio records made during the concert.

**11. THE PRIZE FUND IS 1 000 000 rubles** shall be divided in the following way:

Category A – **150 000 rubles**

Category B – **250 000 rubles**

Category C – **350 000 rubles**

Grand prize – **250 000 rubles**

Independently of the prizes listed above, the following special prizes may be awarded:

- For the best performance of Rachmaninoff's works
- Concert with a symphony orchestra for a contestant, noted by the jury members, on one of the best stages in St. Petersburg

**12. THE ENTRANCE FEE IS 10,000 rubles** from a participant. The bank commission (if any) is paid by the applicant himself. Details for the transfer of the entry fee will be posted no later than February 1, 2023 on the official website of the competition.

Without the advance payment an applicant shall not be admitted to the Competition. In the event that an applicant who has paid its entrance fee is unable to or no longer wishes to take part in the Competition for any reason, the fee shall not be refunded.

The application and all correspondence relating to the participation in the Competition should be in Russian and English, or translated into these languages. Failure to meet the abovementioned requirements or to provide complete information may result in the rejection of the application.

The application should be submitted to the Music School № 4 using the electronic form available on the Competition's website.

Other options are allowed (e-mail: [septomastery@yandex.ru](mailto:septomastery@yandex.ru); mail: School of Arts for Children № 4, ul. Bukharetskaya, 35, korp. 1, 192071, St. Petersburg. The School will not return submitted documents and materials, which will become the School's property).

## APPLICATION

**13. THE COMPETITION APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE:**

- 1) Application form available on the Competition's website («Competition» – «Application»);
- 2) Photocopy of an official document indicating date of birth;
- 3) Current photographs, including at least portrait photo, to be used in Competition publications (electronic version 300–600 dpi; accepted formats – jpg, gif, png, jpeg).
- 4) Video recording of the repertoire of the Competition's qualification stage (see 18 the Rules); the video image must show the pianist's hands while playing and the right side of his/her whole figure, filmed with one camera without cuts during the performance of a piece. Volume control in the recording is not allowed. All pieces should be recorded in one place and at one time.
- 5) Proof of payment of the application fee of 10000 Rubles. The candidate's name and the purpose of the payment should be indicated.

**14. THE APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION** should be completed not later than 1 April, 2023.

**15. APPLICANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE** in the qualifying round without advance payment. In case of failure to pass the qualifying round, the registration fee is not refunded.

**16. THE RESULTS OF THE QUALIFYING ROUND** will be published on the competition website no later than 20 April, 2023.

- 17. PERFORMING THE COMPETITION PROGRAMME** participants should strictly follow the order of compositions fixed in their applications. The declared programme cannot be changed, it is also not allowed to change compositions over from one round to another, as well as replace and repeat compositions. Participants who infringe these terms will be considered as hors-concourse participants and the Jury will not estimate their performances.
- 18. THE VIDEO RECORDING** must contain two pieces (at the discretion of an applicant), including an etude. Comment: it is possible that these pieces will not be included into the Competition performances.
- 19. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMPETITION** sends a confirmation of receipt to the candidates who have submitted applications for participation in the Competition. Each participant will be informed about the passage of the qualifying round additionally to the contact e-mail specified in the application.
- 20. EACH CONTESTANT** will be additionally informed about the passage of the qualifying stage at the e-mail address specified in the application. The list of those admitted to participate in the 1st round is also published on the official website of the competition.
- 21. ALL SUBMITTED MATERIALS AND DOCUMENTS** for the Contest will not be returned.
- 22. PARTICIPANTS OF THE COMPETITION** should keep copies of all sent documents until the end of the competition.
- 23. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS OR APPLICATIONS WITHOUT THE ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS** (documents) listed above are not accepted for consideration.
- 24. IN THE EVENT OF ANY DISPUTES** on the information written in these Terms, the Terms in the Russian language shall prevail.

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## REPertoire

### 25. CATEGORY A

- 1) The first round: several compositions contrasting by their character. The length of round no more than 10 minutes.
- 2) The second round: several pieces by the composers of different styles, including one piece of a composer of the participant's country and 1st movement of a classical sonata (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, etc.).

The length of round no more than more than 15 minutes.

The pieces may be performed in any order.

Should the contestant overrun the time limit, the Jury may stop his/her performance.

- 3) The third round: First movement of a piano concerto:

BACH – Concerto № 1 d minor BWV 1052

BACH – Concerto № 5 f minor BWV 1056

HAYDN – Concerto D major Hob. XVIII/II

MOZART – Concerto A major KV 414

BEETHOVEN – Concerto № 1 C major op.15

Comment: the candidate is free to choose the concerto also from the category B repertoire.

### 26. CATEGORY B

- 1) The first round: one virtuoso etude (Moszkowski, Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Debussy, etc.), the 1st movement of a classical sonata (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven) and a polyphonic piece (Bach, Hendel, Corelli, Shostakovich, Shchedrin) chosen by participant. The length of round no more than 20 minutes.
- 2) The second round: several pieces by the composers of different styles, including one piece of a composer of the participant's country. The length of round no more than 25 minutes.

The pieces may be performed in any order.

Should the contestant overrun the time limit, the Jury may stop his/her performance.

- 3) The third round: performance of the First movement of a piano concerto:

BEETHOVEN – Concerto № 3 c minor op. 37

BEETHOVEN – Concerto № 4 G major op. 58

MOZART – Concert № 20 d minor KV 466

MOZART – Concert № 21 C major KV 467

CHOPIN – Concerto № 1 e minor

GRIEG – Concerto a minor op. 16

RACHMANINOFF – Concerto № 2 c minor op.18

PROKOFIEV – Concerto № 1 D flat major

Comment: the candidate is free to choose the concerto also from the category C repertoire.

## 27. CATEGORY C

1) The first round: Prelude and fugue by Bach from WTC (Well-Tempered Clavier), classical sonata (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven) and two virtuoso studies (Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin). The length of round no more than 30 minutes.

The pieces may be performed in any order except the Etudes, which have to be played one after the other.

2) The second round: several pieces by the composers of different styles. The length of round no more than 40 minutes.

The pieces may be performed in any order.

Should the contestant overrun the time limit, the jury may stop his/her performance.

3) The third round: First movement of a piano concerto:

BEETHOVEN – Concerto № 3 c minor op. 37

BEETHOVEN – Concerto № 4 G major op. 58

MOZART – Concert № 20 d minor KV 466

MOZART – Concert № 21 C major KV 467

SCHUMANN – Concerto № 1 a minor op. 54

LIZT – Concerto № 1 E flat major

CHOPIN – Concerto № 1 e minor

TCHAIKOVSKY – Concerto № 1 h minor

RACHMANINOFF – Concerto № 2 c minor op. 18

RACHMANINOFF – Concerto № 3 d minor op. 30

PROKOFIEV – Concerto № 1 D flat major

**28.** THE COMPETITION REPERTOIRE must be shown in the candidate's Competition application.

**29.** THE COMPETITION REPERTOIRE must be played from memory.

**30.** THE COMPETITION OFFICE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING of any changes to the Competition repertoire no later than 1 April.

## JURY

**31.** Jury members – representatives of the world's leading piano schools.

**32.** The jury members are not eligible to exhibit their students.

**33.** The jury reserves the right of interrupting a performance by Competition participants whose programme exceeds the established time or does not comply with other terms or conditions of the Competition.

**34.** The results shall be announced at the end of each round in each category. The jury points are not to be disclosed.

**35.** The jury's decision is final, not subject to review and appeal.

**36.** The jury reserves the right to award not all prizes, as well as to award special prizes.

**37.** The contestants who took the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are announced as laureates of the XIII International Competition for Young Pianists «Step Towards Mastery».

## PRACTICE AND REHEARSALS

**38.** For the period of participation in the Competition participants will be provided with auditoriums for practice (not more than 4 hours per day) and given the possibility to make a rehearsal in the concert hall (under special schedule) no more than 10 minutes for participants of round 1-2 and no more than 20 minutes for participants of round 3.