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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Look for the Cleveland International Piano Competition: Classical Music, Evolved

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, the 2024 Competition has been redesigned to identify and empower future leaders of the piano world.

CLEVELAND, OH – February 28, 2023 Piano Cleveland celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Cleveland International Piano Competition with an innovative approach to the competition landscape that creates pivotal personal and career growth opportunities for contestants to encourage individual pianistic expression and support their creative artistic vision. Its values of cultivating and investing in the future of music are reinforced by the Competition’s new design, which identifies and empowers future leaders of the piano world and offers a forward-thinking prize package that meets artists’ current needs. The organization pays homage to its reputation of bringing the world’s top pianists to Cleveland with a once-in-a-lifetime chance to play with The Cleveland Orchestra and learn from Honorary CIPC Ambassador, Lang Lang. The Competition will take place from July 28 - August 10, 2024.

“We want to build on the progress we’ve made over the past 50 years with a renewed commitment to identifying and supporting future leaders,” said Yaron Kohlberg, President of Piano Cleveland. “The opportunities we’re offering are unique to the competition sphere and tailored to create long-term impact for pianists today, bridging the gap between where they are and who they want to become.”

The 2024 Cleveland International Piano Competition contestants will compete for the unparalleled opportunity to perform with The Cleveland Orchestra and the exceptional Mixon First Prize Package, including:

- A significant monetary prize of \$75,000 USD presented by Mrs. A. Malachi Mixon III and the late Mr. A. Malachi Mixon III
- Benefits from a new partnership with Arabella Arts. This new collaboration provides the Mixon First Prize Winner the opportunity to work with one of the leading artist management firms in the United States. In addition to securing significant performances in partnership with the CIPC, Arabella will provide mentorship and connections across the classical music world to help shape the artists of tomorrow.
- Debut recital at Carnegie Hall
- Recital at Tonhalle Zürich
- Recording on the Steinway & Sons label

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In honoring the commitment to building the future of piano, prizes are being expanded to support the needs of today's developing artists with the Artist Development Program, open to Quarter-Finalists, Semi-Finalists, and Finalists. For the first time in the classical competition space, the unique career development opportunities include:

- Residencies at northeast Ohio Universities, including the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) and the University of Akron (UA), offered during the 2025 Spring or Fall semesters.
 - The CIM residency encourages the artist to work closely with faculty to develop the skills and perspective necessary to reach success in a conservatory setting.
 - The residency at University of Akron provides the opportunity to live in the vibrant arts community of Akron, where they will learn how to work as a faculty member with diverse populations, perform, and provide masterclasses.
- Mentorship opportunities with leading pianists, faculty, and innovators in the classical music world, including Jonathan Biss, Angela Hewitt, Hyung-ki Joo of Igudesman & Joo, and Konstantin Soukhovetski, among others.
- Short courses in personal branding, social media, fundraising, artist finances, and similar topics, offered in partnership with Young Concert Artists.
- Performance opportunities, including chamber music collaborations with ChamberFest Cleveland and recitals at International Keyboard Odyssiad and Festival.
- Workshops on how to build new programming and audience engagement with Piano Cleveland staff and invited guests.
- Monetary Special Prizes totaling over \$14,000 will be available for individual contestants in the categories of: Audience Prize, Beethoven Prize, Chopin Prize, Mozart Prize, Baroque Prize, Cairns Family American Prize, and Female Composer Prize, with additional prizes to be announced.

"Being one of the most prominent piano competitions in recent decades, the CIPC's efforts to provide various opportunities for young artists today are commendable," said Gustav Alink, Co-Founder and Director of the Alink-Argerich Foundation (AAF). "Pianists applying for the next competition edition will undoubtedly benefit from the experience of taking part in an event which will celebrate 50 years of pianistic excellence in Cleveland."

Piano Cleveland has identified opportunities to innovate the Competition structure, introducing a new design to support the vision of better identifying future leaders of the piano world. In addition to accepting between 50 and 60 First Round candidates – nearly double what the organization has accepted in years prior – the performances will be live locally and internationally, with spots allocated for candidates from underrepresented backgrounds.

The presentations of the live First Rounds have been made possible through the development of partnerships with Gamble Auditorium, Conservatory of Music at Baldwin-Wallace University, and internationally with Salle Cortot, École Normale de Musique de Paris. In addition to First Round performances, these partnerships will involve ways for First Round Jury members to work directly with students at both institutions.



Sixteen contestants will come to Cleveland for the Quarter-Final Round, Semi-Final and Chamber Round, and Final Round at Severance Music Center. Contestants will have a chance to connect with communities and showcase their artistry through creative programming that is not traditionally supported within competition contexts, with increased repertoire flexibility throughout each stage and a two-piano transcription event to commence the Quarter-Final Round. Contestants are also required to play a work by a composer from a traditionally underrepresented background during either the Quarter-Final or Semi-Final Round. This composer may be from the contestant's origin country if that country is not well represented in the Western Art Music canon, and repertoire choices must be approved by competition leadership.

After solo recitals and chamber trio performances during the Semi-Final Round, four Finalists will move on to compete in the Salon Round, where each contestant will create a compelling narrative through their program, and the Concerto Final Round with The Cleveland Orchestra.

Honoring their renewed commitment to equity throughout the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Piano Cleveland will host multiple juries for different competition rounds to encourage pianists' creativity and minimize bias. Across the three juries, members were selected to represent a broad understanding of the different facets of today's music industry, from concert pianists and faculty members of prestigious universities, to artist managers, conductors, music journalists, and festival directors.

In addition to Honorary CIPC Ambassador Lang Lang (China), the jury selected for the 2024 CIPC includes Melvin Chen (Chair - United States), Deputy Dean and Professor in the Practice of Piano at Yale School of Music; Lydia Connolly (United Kingdom), Director at leading international classical music agency HarrisonParrott; Hyung-ki Joo (South Korea), part of international comedy duo, Igudesman & Joo; Francesco Lecce-Chong (United States), Conductor and Music Director of Eugene Symphony and Santa Rosa Symphony; Matan Porat (Israel/Germany), internationally acclaimed pianist and composer, Awadagin Pratt (United States) Professor of Piano at San Francisco Conservatory of Music; Mūza Rubackytė (Lithuania), Director of Vilnius International Piano Festival and Kathleen Van Bergen (United States), CEO and President, John and Joanne Fisher Chair, of Artis-Naples. This jury will focus on Quarter-Finalist performances through the selection of the Mixon First Prize Winner live in Cleveland in summer 2024.

The First Round Jury, who will select the sixteen Quarter-Finalists from the up to 60 contestants in Cleveland and Paris, features Ute Fesquet (Germany), Senior Consultant and former VP of Artists and Repertoire at Deutsche Grammophon (2010-2019); Paul-Arnaud Pejouan (France), Founding Director of Piano aux Jacobins festival in Toulouse; Sonia Simmenauer (United States/France), Founder of Impresariat Simmenauer; Hartmut Welscher (Germany), Chief Editor of VAN Magazine, and Yaron Kohlberg (Israel/United States), President of Piano Cleveland.



The Preliminary Jury, who will select up to 60 candidates for the First Round, includes Tanya Bannister (United Kingdom), President of Concert Artists Guild; Renana Gutman (Israel/United States), Piano Faculty at Longy School of Music of Bard College; Artina McCain (United States), Associate Professor of Piano at University of Memphis; Samir Nikocecic (Croatia/United States), Artist Manager at Arabella Arts; and Konstantin Soukhovetski (United States), former CIPC Winner, composer and adjunct faculty at The Juilliard School.

Additional information on repertoire, the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, how to apply, and more can be found on pianocleveland.org.

About Piano Cleveland

Piano Cleveland promotes Cleveland as a premier piano destination by presenting world-class programming, community engagement, and education initiatives. The organization's four major programs and events include the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the CIPC for Young Artists, a mixed-genre piano festival, and year-round education and community engagement programming.