

Birmingham International Piano Chamber Music Festival

Competition regulations

1) **Eligibility:** The competition is open to ensembles with an average individual age of 28 years per member or under, ie a total age of 56 years or under for duos, 84 or under for trios and 112 or under for quartets. The competition is open to **duos, trios and quartets** that include a **single pianist**. Regrettably, ensembles with two pianists, singers, or five or more members will not be eligible.

2) The **closing date** for applications is **1200 on Friday 10th June 2022**.

3) **Competition procedure:**

a) The preliminary round will be undertaken by live audition in Birmingham on **Friday 24th June 2022** or by video. Ensembles based in the UK will be invited to live audition (we intend to hear all applicants). Ensembles based outside the UK may apply by video. Live auditions and recordings will be watched by **the same** panel of adjudicators, most of whom will **not** be on the jury panel in November. NB: *UK based ensembles who cannot attend the live preliminary round audition (in extraordinary circumstances) may contact us to discuss.*

b) **6** Ensembles will be chosen to attend the festival in November 2022. You must be free for **all days** 14th – 16th November. **All** ensembles will give a 45 minute first round recital as part of the festival programme. **3** ensembles will be selected for the grand final on the evening of 16th November. **All** ensembles will also take part in masterclasses during their time in Birmingham. These will take part after their first round performances and will **not** be with members of the competition jury for obvious reasons. Video recordings of first round and grand final performances will be available to competitors after the event.

4) **How to apply:** Please apply using our online form [link here] where you can input your information and attach any other necessary documents, as well as paying your entry fee.

5) **Entry fee:** There is an entry fee of £50 (GBP) per **person**. £100 for duo, £150 for trio and £200 for quartet.

6) **Application documents:**

a) Name of ensemble, nominated contact name and contact details.

b) Biography of ensemble including names of all members. Please also declare **any** prior contact with any of our jury members. This will not affect your application in any way, but jury members will not be allowed to vote on ensembles with whom they have worked closely in the past.

c) Chosen repertoire for your preliminary round audition or a video recording of your ensemble for Round 1 if applicable. Details below. We would prefer a **Youtube** link for this.

d) Any other information in support of your application. This is **not** obligatory.

7) Repertoire:

a) **Preliminary round** live audition or video recording should be a maximum of **20 minutes**, allowing for breaks between pieces, tuning etc. Repertoire is free choice but must include at least two contrasting movements. Video recordings should be **unedited** and recorded in **one continuous take**.

b) **First round** recitals at the November Festival are a maximum of **45 minutes** allowing for breaks between pieces, tuning etc. Repertoire must include at least one piece written between 1700 and 1880. Works from the preliminary round may **not** be included. Otherwise it is a free choice. Single movements or entire works are allowable. An effective concert programme is advised.

c) Competitors must also prepare a further **40 minute** (maximum) recital for the grand final. This may **not** include any works performed in the first round or preliminary round but is otherwise free choice.

d) We will ask for repertoire from the 6 chosen ensembles shortly after the preliminary round. We do **not** need first round and final repertoire with your initial application.

8) **Prizes:** The 6 selected ensembles will take part in our public festival programme in Birmingham. All will receive recordings of their recitals and take part in masterclasses. The winning ensemble will also receive £2,500, the opportunity to make a commercial recording with Resonus Classics, mentorship from a highly respected chamber musician and public engagements including Wigmore Hall in London.

9) **Small print:** Each ensemble invited to take part in the November Festival will receive an honorarium of **200GBP per player** towards their accommodation and subsistence. It is the responsibility of **ensembles to organise their own accommodation** in Birmingham. The competition can provide a list of hotels. We do **not** pay for travel; to preliminary auditions, November competition, prizewinners' engagements or recording sessions. Dates for engagements for the winning ensemble will be negotiated after the competition. We have agreement in principle from the listed concert venues, as long as mutually acceptable dates can be found. There will be a fee of 400GBP or 400EUR per artist per concert (ie 800 for duo, 1200 for trio etc). Birmingham International Airport or Birmingham New Street or Moor Street stations are practical for the Conservatoire. Practical details for the Festival and Competition will be discussed with the 6 selected ensembles shortly after the preliminary auditions.