



The 27th United States International Music Competition

ABOUT: The **United States International Music Competition** is organized by the United States International Music Foundation affiliated with the Chinese Music Teachers' Association of Northern California, a non-profit organization. This competition provides young musicians with an opportunity to exhibit their talents and reward their hard work, as well as to encourage them to appreciate cross-cultural exchanges .

ELIGIBILITY: Contestants of all nationalities.No Age Limit. Past First Place winners may not compete in an age group that they have won previously. However, they may elect to compete in another age-appropriate group.

INSTRUMENT CATEGORIES: Piano (Solo, Duet, and Concerto), Violin, Viola, Cello, Classical Chamber Ensembles (Western Instruments), Vocal (Solo and Ensemble), Marimba, and Traditional Chinese Instruments categories are held annually. Harp and Classical Guitar are also included in the 2020 competition categories.

AGE GROUPS: Eligibility for each group will be determined by the contestant's age as of **May 20, 2020**. Each instrument category has different age groups.

Category & Age groups	Piano	Violin	Viola	Cello	Vocal
A	Age 9 or under	Age 9 or under	Age 14 or under	Age 11 or under	Age 9 or under
B	Age 11 or under	Age 13 or under	Age 18 or under	Age 14 or under	Age 12 or under
C	Age 14 or under	Age 18 or under	Age 19 or above	Age 18 or under	Age 14 or under
D	Age 18 or under	Age 19 or above		Age 19 or above	Age 18 or under
E	Age 19 or above				Age 19 or above
Category & Age groups	Marimba	Harp	Celtic Harp	Classical Guitar	Piano Duet Piano Concerto Classical Chamber Vocal Ensemble
A	Age 11 or under	Age 12 or under	Age 18 or under	Age 13 or under	*Age 12 or under
B	Age 14 or under	Age 15 or under	Age 19 or above	Age 18 or under	*Age 18 or under
C	Age 18 or under	Age 18 or under		Age 19 or above	*Age 19 or above
D	Age 19 or above	Age 19 or above	*Ensemble group is determined by the oldest contestant in the group		

Traditional Chinese Instruments	
Category & Age groups	Plucked String
A	Age 14 or under
B	Age 18 or under
C	Age 19 or above

Final competition (Live Round)

- **Date: Saturday & Sunday, July 18-19, 2020**
- **Location: San Jose State University Music Hall**
- Competition winners will be announced when the result is finalized

The Winners' Concerts and Award Ceremonies

- **Date: Sunday, July 26, 2020**
- **Location: San Jose State University Music Hall**

THREE AWARD CATEGORIES:

I. YOUNG ARTIST AWARDS:

- **Preliminary video round: due on May 20, 2020. (including chamber ensemble)**
- **Winners from each instrumental group will be awarded the following:**
 - 1st Place: USD \$300, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital
 - 2nd Place: USD \$150, Trophy, Certificate
 - 3rd Place: USD \$100, Trophy, Certificate
 - Honorable Places: Medals, Certificate
 - All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition
- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time will be determined by the judges.

II. CHINESE MUSIC AWARD:

- The purpose of the Chinese Music Award is to promote Chinese Music and culture.
- The Chinese Music Award is only for **Western instruments solo and vocal solo**.
- **NOT** open to instrumental ensemble, vocal ensembles, piano concerto and Chinese Traditional Instruments.
- Contestants can only compete in this individual category, which is organized into the same instrument or vocal age groups.
- Please note that the Chinese music piece **does not require preliminary video submission**. The competition for the Chinese Music Award will take place on the same days as the final round.
- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time will be determined by the judges, and performance time will be limited to 6 minutes.
- Application fee is charged separately for this category.
- **AWARDS:**
 - 1st Place: USD \$150, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital
 - 2nd place: Medals, Certificate
 - 3rd Place: Medals, Certificate
 - All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition
- **J & V Foundation & CMTANC Commissioning Project Award**
 - If the contestant selects the composition from the *J & V Foundation & CMTANC Commissioning Project* and wins First Place, the J & V Foundation will reward USD \$150 scholarship in addition to the Chinese Music Award.
 - These compositions includes: **FANTASY AMOUR** for piano, **FLOATING CLOUDS** for violin, **AMIS' FEAST** for violin, **FLOATING CLOUDS** for cello, **DANCE TO THE MOON** for cello and music for violin, cello, and marimba are composed by Hao-Yuan Chiu.
 - To request the music, please email: commissionproject@cmtanc.org.

III. SPECIAL THEME AWARD - J.S. Bach or W. A. Mozart:

- The purpose of the Special Theme Award is to promote specific western composers. The theme may vary yearly.
- For Mozart, violin music is only limited to sonatas
- The Special Theme Award is only for **Western instruments solo and vocal solo**.
- **NOT** open to instrumental ensemble, vocal ensembles , piano concerto and Chinese Traditional Instruments.
- Contestants can compete only in this individual category, which is organized into the same instrument or vocal age groups.
- The music for the piano, strings, and vocal must be originally composed for the instrument. The music for other instruments must be published. The committee reserves the right to approve.
- Please note that the Special Theme Award **does not require preliminary video submission**. The competition for the Special Theme Award will take place on the same days as the final round.
- No limit to music length; and no cut for original music. However, the live performance time is determined by the judges, and performance time will be limited to **6 minutes**.
- Application fee is charged separately for this category.
- **AWARDS:**
 - 1st Place: USD \$150, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital
 - 2nd place: Medals, Certificate

- 3rd Place: Medals, Certificate
- All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition.

COMPETITION PROCEDURE:

- **Preliminary Video Round (Young Artist Awards only):** Contestants will be evaluated in the preliminary round based on two performance video clips. The two submitted clips must be selected from the listed repertoire below. Each piece is required to be performed in its entirety in the video submission—with cadenza if applicable. No piece may be entered more than once in the competition.
- **Uploaded preliminary videos:** Video clips must be recorded from one, single camera angle and must have good lighting/visibility of the performer. Editing is not permitted. **No piano accompaniment needed in the video (except for vocal)** The two separate video clips shall be uploaded on **YouTube.com** or **YouKu.com**.
- **Deadline: By May 20, 2020.**
- Finalists will be posted on www.usimc.org by **June 20, 2020**.
- Final Round instructions for finalists will be notified by email.
- Final Round Pieces need to be the same as the preliminary round. Changing pieces is not allowed.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Online registration for USIMC begins on **April 10, 2020** on www.usimc.org.

The registration deadline is **May 20, 2020**.

1. Proof of age (photocopy of driver's license, passport or birth certificate) must be brought for check-in on Final Audition Day (no need to submit for this year)
2. Application Fee: **Young Artist Award categories, Special Theme Award or Chinese Music Award:** (USD)
 - \$80.00 per contestant, per category (students of Active CMTANC members)
 - \$110.00 per contestant, per category (students of Non-CMTANC members)
 - \$130.00 per international contestant, per category

Chamber Ensemble or Vocal Ensemble:

- \$50 per contestant (coached by Active CMTANC members)
- \$60 per contestant (coached by Non-CMTANC members)
- \$70 per international contestant

3. All contestants pay application fee **ONLINE ONLY** via the registration system. All fees are non-refundable. \$45 will be charged if application has missing documents or any errors.
- If contestant is entering more than one category, the total fees for all categories entered may be included in one transaction.
 - The two video links for the Young Artist Award Category must be provided in the Registration Form. Once the Application is submitted and the deadline is met, the music selections/titles cannot be changed.
 - Please visit www.usimc.org for more information. For questions, contact us by email: info@usimc.org or +1(408) 681-9928

YOUNG ARTIST AWARD - REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENT: (Preliminary Video All Needed)

PIANO/ PIANO DUET/ VIOLIN/ VIOLA/ CELLO/ Marimba:

- Contestants must select two original and contrasting pieces from different music periods. One piece must be from either the Baroque or the Classical period. The other piece must be from Romantic or Contemporary periods.
- No simplified music allowed. Music CANNOT be edited or cut.
- Selections of music must be the same for both Preliminary and Final rounds.
- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time is determined by the judges, and performance time of the 2 selections of music is limited to:

Group	Piano	Piano Duet	Violin	Viola	Cello	Marimba
A	8 minutes	10 minutes	8 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	6 minutes

B	10 minutes	12 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	12 minutes	8 minutes
C	12 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	10 minutes
D	15 minutes		15 minutes		15 minutes	15 minutes
E	15 minutes					

Classical Chamber Music:

- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time is determined by the judges, and performance time is limited to **12 minutes**.
- Only one movement and no memorization required.
- **Preliminary Video recording required.**
- Maximum 6 people in each group.

PIANO CONCERTO:

- Only need one movement of any standard piano concerto repertoire
- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time is determined by the judges, and performance time is limited to **12 minutes**.
- **Preliminary Video recording required. (without accompanist)**
- Memorization for the whole piece is required.

VOCAL: including solo and ensemble categories.

Vocal ensemble: Maximum 6 people in each group.

1. Contestants must enter two selections.

- There are no restrictions on language or style.
- Total time for both selections should not exceed **6 minutes**; both should be performed from memory.
- The two selections for the final round must be the same as the two selections entered in the Preliminary Round.
- Accompaniment is optional in the Preliminary Round.

2. Final round:

- Accompaniment is mandatory unless the song is a capella.
- No restrictions on the type of accompaniment, contestants may bring CD accompaniment.
- If a piano accompaniment is needed, contestant can choose either an accompanist from USIMC's approved list or pre-recorded music.

Classical Guitar:

Group A	One free choice, should not exceed 5 minutes and the following: <i>Etude Op. 35 No. 14 (March in A minor) by Fernando Sor</i>
Group B	One free choice, should not exceed 8 minutes and the following: <i>Mazurka Choro (No. 1 from Suite Populaire Brasilienne) by Heitor Villa-Lobos</i>
Group C	One free choice, should not exceed 10 minutes and the following: <i>Madronos by Federico Moreno Torroba</i>

HARP/CELTIC HARP:

Group A	One free choice, should not exceed 5 minutes and the following: <i>Marguerite Douleureuse au Rouet (No. 2), Op. 26, by Albert Zabel</i> <i>Quietude, by Carlos Salzedo</i> Any from Graded Recital Series Harp Solo Volume 1, 2, 3, 4 by S. McDonald & L. Wood
Group B	One free choice, should not exceed 7 minutes and the following: <i>Valse de Concert, by Alph. Hasselmans</i> <i>Variations on a Theme of Mozart, by Mikhail Glinka</i> <i>Lolita la Danseuse or La Volière Magique, from Images, by Marcel Tournier</i>
Group C	One free choice, should not exceed 10 minutes and the following: <i>The Harmonious Blacksmith, by G. F. Handel/C. Salzedo</i> <i>La Danse de Sylphes, by Felix Godefroid</i> <i>Contemplation, by Henriette Renié</i>
Group D	One free choice, should not exceed 12 minutes and the following:

	<i>Le Rossignol</i> , by Franz Liszt/H. Renié <i>Sérénade, Op. 83</i> , by Elias Parish Alvars <i>Rhapsodie, op. 10</i> , by Marcel Grandjany
Celtic Harp	One free choice, should not exceed 5 minutes and one of the following: Any from <i>Les Petits Pas Harpe Celtique, Automates or Danses D'Automne</i> , by Benard Andrès Any from <i>Counterpieces (4 pieces pour harpe celtique)</i> , by Jean-Michel Damase <i>Carnival (Who Says I Need Black Keys)</i> , Anonymous/S. Yu

TRADITIONAL CHINESE INSTRUMENTS (SOLO ONLY):

- Contestant's two contesting pieces must be from different musical styles with one piece required to be traditional Chinese music.
- Time limit of the 2 selections of music:

Group A	12 minutes
Group B/C	15 minutes

RULES:

1. Past First Place winners cannot register again for the same group of that instrumental category.
2. No accompaniment is permitted for all instruments except vocals in the Preliminary Round (in the two video clips uploaded to YouTube.com or YouKu.com).
3. **Providing the original purchased music is mandatory.** Contestants are required to bring the non-photocopied music. If the music is purchased from online databases, please print and attach your online or emailed purchase receipt to the final competition, with the exception of Chinese pieces.
4. **No** simplified or edited music can be used for competition in all categories.
5. Contestants may register for multiple instrumental categories.
6. No changes in repertoire are allowed after the deadline.
7. In the Final Round, all repertoire, except the Classical Chamber, must be performed from memory and in complete form. **No Repeats.**
8. Due to the time limit, the judges reserve the right to stop or interrupt the contestant during the final audition. This will not affect the result.
9. All Finalists must exclusively use official accompanists appointed by the Competition Committee. Parent/coach/teacher is not allowed to be the accompanist of his/her own child/student/group.
10. Winners will be chosen from the finalists in each group. However, if none of the finalists meet the standard, the judges reserve the right to declare no winners.
11. All judges' decisions are final. Contestants - Parents/guardians cannot appeal the final decision of the judges. If any contact with the judges is discovered, the contestants or winners will be disqualified.
12. No comments sheet regarding contestant's performance will be provided by the judges.
13. In the event of a tie, each winner will receive a trophy and share the scholarship.
14. The judges will decide the Winners Recital Program.
15. The awards will be presented at the Winners' Recitals. An additional mailing and handling charge (\$45 domestic in the US; \$60 international) will apply to all mailing requests after the Winners' Recitals.
16. Each contestant hereby gives USIMC and CMTANC permission to record, use, duplicate, distribute, and/or modify creatively, derivative works for public display of the contestant's performance in the audition and competition.
17. Subject to the limitations by applicable laws and regulations, each contestant waives any and all claims or actions against USIMC-CMTANC, CMTANC and its judges, staff, officers, directors, and volunteers that have arisen and/or may arise from Competitor's participation in the audition and competition.