



The 48th Annual Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition
Senior Division Official Rule Book & Entry Instructions ©
UPDATED 2-5-21

Virtual Competition: May 14, 15, 16, 2021

The 2021 Fischhoff Competition will be held virtually. Entry videos will be used for acceptance into the competition and for all competition rounds. Fischhoff reserves the right to cancel or amend any or all of the 2021 competition.

Updated 2-5-21

Videos must show ensembles performing together in the same space. To ensure ensemble safety, Fischhoff urges ensembles to follow Covid-19 protocols. Masks, distancing and alternative performance venues (such as outdoor locations) are encouraged

COVID-19 Precautions: Fischhoff urges all ensembles to abide by local and state health & safety guidelines. Our first priority is ensemble & community safety. If you cannot safely enter the 2021 Competition, please mark your calendars for the 49th Annual Competition, May 20-22, 2022.

Entry

UPDATED: Complete entries must be **RECEIVED by 11:59 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 3, 2021.**

Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.

The Senior Division will be divided into two categories: Wind and String. Mixed ensembles will be assigned by Fischhoff staff to the division in which there is a majority of instruments. Pianos will be considered a string instrument. Percussion will be considered a wind instrument.

Ensembles will receive email notification of results by the end of March.

Eligibility

The Fischhoff Competition is open to U.S. and non-U.S. residents. The competition is open to instrumental ensembles only.

Ensembles will consist of 3 to 6 musicians. Ensembles that have more than one piano, or are vocal in nature, are ineligible to compete.

All members of the ensemble must perform on separate instruments throughout the competition, but can use various instruments. Ensembles that perform repertoire with varied instrumentation must select works that use all members of the ensemble for all competition repertoire.

Individuals may not enter or compete in more than one ensemble, including the video round.

Changes in personnel will NOT be allowed once the entry is received.

Age Requirement

Senior Division ensemble members must not be more than age 35 on May 16, 2021. The average age of ensemble members must not exceed 30 years on May 16, 2021. (The ensemble's age must average less than 31 years old).

Senior Division ensembles may include members who are age 18 or younger.

Previous Grand Prize Winners

Senior ensembles may not include any individual who has previously won the Grand Prize in the Senior Division. Gold medalists are eligible to return.

Senior Division Repertoire Requirements

NEW for 2021 Video Audition: The video recording must include **at least two complete works of contrasting STYLE and PERIOD** and a minimum of **40 minutes** of total playing time.

Ensembles whose repertoire is primarily from the 20th century to the present must clearly represent more than one style. **If repertoire choices are technically from different periods listed below, but composed within 15 years of each other, contact Fischhoff well in advance for approval: miki@fischhoff.org**

Transcriptions are permissible. Note: If transcribing a work of standard chamber music repertoire, *all movements* of that work must be transcribed and prepared. An example of this might be a standard string quartet transcribed for wind instruments.

For purposes of this competition, "works of contrasting style and period" should fit clearly into the following categories:

1770 and earlier (Baroque and earlier)

1770-1810 (Classical)

1811-1900 (Romantic)

1900-1950 (Modern)

1950--present (Contemporary)

Any questions regarding appropriate repertoire selections must be emailed to miki@fischhoff.org well in advance of recording. Official responses will be returned via email. The Fischhoff Competition reserves the right to make final decisions on these matters.

All multi-movement works must be performed in their entirety on the video recording. Failure to meet these requirements will result in disqualification. Recordings will frequently exceed 40 minutes.

Repeats are optional.

Videos will be viewed by a screening panel to determine acceptance into the Competition. The panel will listen and watch for interpretation, ensemble sound and unity, technical accuracy, and overall performance effect. Their decisions are final and comments will not be available after the screening.

Videos of advancing groups will be used for the quarterfinal, semifinal and final rounds. In May, competition jurors will provide verbal and written comments to advancing ensembles.

See page 4 for Video Recording Requirements.

Prizes & Tours

In each Senior Division category (Wind and String), three medals and cash prizes will be awarded based upon judging of the entry videos. (Cash amounts are per ensemble, not per member):

1st Prize and Gold Medal - \$3,500
2nd Prize and Silver Medal - \$3,000
3rd Prize and Bronze Medal - \$2,000

In addition, the Senior Division Gold Medalists will be awarded one of the following prizes, either based upon entry videos or a live performance at a future date:

Grand Prize - \$10,000 (\$13,500 total prize money)
Double Gold Tour Prize - \$3,500 (\$7,000 total prize money)

The **Grand Prize** includes a special medal and \$10,000 to be awarded in two \$5,000 increments after completion of tours of the Midwest (autumn 2021) and Italy (summer 2022).

The Grand Prize Winner is obligated to perform all concerts on the tour, which includes a trip to Italy in the summer of 2022 for several concerts at the Emilia Romagna Festival.

NOTE: Failure by the Grand Prize ensemble to perform the entire Tour may result in forfeiture of the Grand Prize, its medals and cash award. The Grand Prize may subsequently be awarded to the Gold Medalist in the corresponding senior division.

The Fischhoff Double Gold Tour Prize: Fischhoff will present a tour of the Midwest featuring the corresponding Senior Division Gold Medalist. This tour will include an additional cash prize of \$3,500 and will take place in autumn 2021.

Midwest Tour Dates

Sr. Wind Division: approximately September 15-24, 2021.

Sr. String Division: approximately October 5-14, 2021.

Specific dates will be confirmed upon acceptance into the quarterfinal round. Please immediately contact Miki Strabley at miki@fischhoff.org if you become aware of any possible date conflicts.

Gold Medalist ensembles will be expected to submit concert repertoire ranging from 60-90 minutes. Ensembles must guarantee that they will be able to meet the time requirements of tour presenters.

Fischhoff will pay travel, lodging and meal expenses for all tours.

Fischhoff reserves the right to cancel all, or part, of the Midwest and Italy tours and prizes, if deemed necessary.

Additional Prizes

The American Brass Quintet will award the *American Brass Quintet Brass Ensemble Prize* of \$400 to the top-ranked Senior Wind Division brass ensemble.

As part of the Double Gold Tour, the Senior String Division Gold Medalist will be awarded a video recording in Guarneri Hall in Chicago, sponsored by Darnton & Hersh Fine Violins.

Acceptance Materials & Scores

Ensembles that are accepted to the quarterfinal round of the Competition will be required to complete and return additional forms provided at the time of notification. One set of scores in pdf format will also be required.

Soirees

Senior ensembles may have the option to participate in virtual Fischhoff soirees. Soirees are traditionally private or public performances for small community audiences. The purposes of soirees are: a) to provide ensembles with an opportunity to perform their repertoire before a live audience prior to the Competition; b) to increase

local awareness of chamber music; and c) to increase support for the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association.

Fischhoff is exploring the option of presenting virtual soirees in May. Ensembles performing soirees will have their entry fees reimbursed. A limited number of opportunities will be available. Ensembles should indicate their interest on page 2 of the entry form, which will be available in December.

Due to advanced arrangements with soiree hosts, ensembles placed with soiree hosts will be obligated to perform.

Questions regarding Soirees should be directed to: Kara Kane, Executive Director: kara@fischhoff.org.

Entry Instructions **UPDATED 12-22-20**

Complete entries (forms, repertoire information, proofs of age, video links & online payment) must be emailed to miki@fischhoff.org by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, March 3, 2021**.

Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted. All entries will be submitted electronically.

Organizations sending more than one entry are asked to submit a separate email for each entry.

Questions regarding the entry process should be directed to the Fischhoff office well before the deadline: miki@fischhoff.org

Entry Fees

Non-refundable entry fees will be accepted via credit card using the [PayPal link on Fischhoff's website](#).

\$125.00	Trio
\$165.00	Quartet
\$205.00	Quintet
\$245.00	Sextet

University, conservatory and music school checks *are* acceptable. Please contact Miki Strabley to make arrangements.

Proof of Age

Each ensemble member must provide proof of age. A *legible* photocopy of a driver's license, birth certificate, student identification with birthdate, or passport must be emailed with your entry.

Please combine all IDs into one pdf document.

Repertoire Information

For each video recording list:

- Title & Composer & include composer year of birth/death
- Movements with timings in minutes/seconds
- Total playing time for each work in minutes/seconds
- At the end of the entire program, list overall playing time in minutes/seconds.

This information will be included in the body of your entry email, along with video links. A sample email can be found at the end of the rulebook.

Video Recording Requirements

The audition recording must be submitted by emailing an unlisted YouTube link(s) to miki@fischhoff.org.

- A movement must be recorded in its entirety; however, breaks may be taken between movements.

- Videos may not be edited or spliced.
- All videos must be complete movements in one unedited take. Audio must be from the same take, but can be from an external microphone(s).
- Fischhoff highly recommends using an external microphone to sync with the video.
- The recording must include all ensemble members at all times.
- The picture should remain stationary without panning, fade-in/out, close-up techniques or use of multiple cameras.
- The ensemble should fill the screen as much as possible.
- Minimum video resolution is 1280x720 (720p).
- Do **not** embed any information into the video, including titles, ensemble names, individual names, or school affiliations.
- In the YouTube page description or title on each video, include the name of the work & the movement being played.
- Each movement must be submitted as a separate video link.

Other

- Concert attire is encouraged, if possible; however, ensembles will not be penalized if recording conditions do not allow for formal attire.
- Videos must show ensembles performing together in the same space. To ensure ensemble safety, Fischhoff urges ensembles to follow Covid-19 protocols. Masks & distancing are encouraged.
- Do not delete your original video from your files after uploading it to YouTube in the event that Fischhoff may request it later on.


Video Identification

The **only identification on the video link should be a six-digit code selected by the ensemble** (e.g. 8675-30) and the name of the composer, work, movement.

For example:

8675-30 Ravel, String Quartet in F Major, Mvmt I

Do NOT include your ensemble, school or member names in the title of the video file or anywhere on YouTube.

The YouTube identification() may be the name of *one ensemble member* but may not be the name of the ensemble.

Schools and coaches should *not* use their own YouTube accounts.

If a third party is assisting with your video recording, make certain they are aware of the requirements above.

Contact

Questions regarding competition entries should be directed to: Miki Strabley, Competition Director: miki@fischoff.org

Questions regarding virtual soirees should be directed to: Kara Kane, Executive Director: kara@fischoff.org
Email is the best way to reach Fischhoff staff as we continue to work remotely.

Submission Instructions & Checklist

- Pay ensemble entry fee via [PayPal on Fischhoff's website](#)
- Email the following to miki@fischhoff.org:
 - [Entry Form](#) (available on the Fischhoff website in January)
 - Proof of age for each ensemble member in one PDF document
 - Repertoire information
 - Video links (It is also acceptable to send one link to a single unlisted YouTube playlist).
- The email subject line must include:
 - Your **ensemble name** (not 6-digit ID) &
 - The **division you are entering** (Junior Wind, Junior String, Senior Wind, Senior String).

Complete entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Notifications

The contact person for each ensemble will receive an email acknowledgement when their entry is processed. Each ensemble's contact person will be notified of the screening panel's decision by email in late March. Please provide an accurate email address and check email frequently.

Sample Entry Email

From: Miki Strabley [mailto:miki@fischhoff.org]
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Miki Strabley <Miki@fischhoff.org>
Subject: Quintet Staffaca, Sr. Wind Division

Hello Miki!

Attached is the entry form for our ensemble, along with our proofs of age.

We submitted our entry fees via PayPal last week.

Below is our 6-digit code along with our video links and repertoire information, including composer birth/death dates, movement timings & total timings.

Thank you! Good luck with entries!

~ Miki Strabley on behalf of Quintet Staffacca

Six-digit code: #8675-30

In Memoriam, Joel Love (b. 1982)

I. Threnody (5:30)

II. Adieu (5:25)

(10:55 total)

<https://youtu.be/.....>

Trio Sonata Op. 1 No. 11 in B minor, Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) Arr. Evan Harris

I. Preludio (2:57) <https://youtu.be/N.....>

II. Corrente (2:22) <https://www.youtube/2...>

III. Giga (2:00) <https://youtu.be/1.....>

IV. Gavotta (1:15) <https://youtu.be/i.....>
(8:34 total)

Ciudades: Addis Ababa, Guillermo Lago (b. 1960)
(3:48) <https://www.youtube/....>

Nepomuk's Dances: Memory, Marcelo Zarvos (b. 1969) Arr. Macke
(6:29) <https://www.youtube/.....>

Nuages, Eugene Bozza (1905-1991)
(3:14) <https://youtu.be/....>

Total time: 33:00

OR if submitting a Playlist...

*Six-digit code: #8675-30

[Playlist link](#)

A Schumann Bouquet, Robert Schumann (1810-1856), arr. William Bolcom

- I. Lieber Mai (2:08)
- II. Knecht Ruprecht (1:51)
- III. Sheherazade (2:47)
- IV. Landler (0:50)
- V. Sehr langsam (3:30)
- VI. Lied italienischer Marinari (1:13)

Total (xx:xx)

In Memoriam, Joel Love (b. 1982)

- I. Threnody (5:25)
- II. Adieu (5:47)

Total (xx:xx)

Fantasy Etudes, William Albright (1944-1998)

- Prelude (1:49)
- I. A Real Nice Number (3:00)
- II. Pypes (3:57)
- III. The Fives for Steve (2:50)
- IV. Phantom Galop (4:41)
- V. Harmonium (5:10)
- VI. They Only Come Out at Night (2:44)

Total (xx:xx)

Total Time: 47:42

*** Reminder: The six-digit code will be 6 numbers of your own choosing. These are not assigned by Fischhoff.**