



The 48th Annual Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition Senior Division Official Rule Book ©

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.

Entry

Entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 p.m. EST, Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

Late entries will not be accepted. Please carefully review the Entry Form and Instructions, which will be posted at www.fischhoff.org in early December.

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 in the Fischhoff office.**

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 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. **Important details regarding video submissions will be outlined in the entry instructions, available in December at www.fischhoff.org.**

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.

Prizes Continued...

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 contact miki@fischhoff.org regarding any possible 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

The Entry Instructions & Entry Form will be available at www.fischhoff.org in early December.

Any questions should be directed to Miki Strabley, Competition Director: miki@fischhoff.org