MISSION

The mission of the Emory University Young Artist Piano Competition is to give exceptional young pianists the opportunity to advance their skills by performing in a public setting.

The competition is open to the public with a live audience invited to attend the semi-finals starting at **11:00 am on Saturday, January 20, 2018** in Cherry Logan Emerson Hall, an 800-seat hall at the Schwartz Center for Performing Arts. Following a prescreening round, 12 semi-finalists (with three alternates) will be chosen to perform and compete live at Emory University.

COMPETITION

Eligibility

The competition is open to pianists **age 13 to 18 as of January 1, 2018**, residing in the Southeastern United States (Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Kentucky, Louisiana and Texas). Twelve finalists and three alternates will be chosen to compete live on January 20, 2018. Proof of age will be required of the contestants chosen for the final round.
Application

The application form can be completed online or as a PDF file and sent to the address listed on the application.

Application Fee

$75

Deadline

The application AND prescreening repertoire must be submitted by midnight, December 1, 2017.

Prescreening requirements

All contestants must submit a 10- to 12-minute selection of free choice of repertoire showcasing their musical talent and technical ability. Selections are to be submitted as YouTube links and emailed to: elena.cholakova@emory.edu no later than midnight, December 1, 2017.

Video requirements

Videos must show solo performances only; orchestral performances will not be considered. NO EDITING is permitted — the video must clearly capture the performer at all times. All works submitted must be performed from memory.

Notification

All contestants will be notified by email of their status acceptance/alternates/non-acceptance by December 15, 2017. Twelve semi-finalists and three alternates will be chosen from all applications. Accepted contestants must reply no later than December 25, 2017, regarding participation in the live round at Emory University on January 20, 2018. If an accepted candidate fails to respond, an alternate will be invited to compete.

Final Round

The Final round of the competition will take place January 20, 2018, starting at 11:00 a.m. Contestants are allowed to play repertoire of their choice, NOT to exceed 20 minutes. The winners will be chosen and perform at 7pm when the judges will determine the awards. All works must be performed from memory. Repeats are optional. The contestants invited to compete live must confirm their repertoire selections upon confirmation of participation; biographies and headshots will be published on the competition web page.
Awards

Prizes will be awarded during the final live round at Emory University. The jury’s decisions are final and not subject to review. The first-place winner of the 2018 Emory Piano Competition will not be eligible to enter the competition again in 2019.

First Prize: $1000 plus

• Concerto Performance Concerto Performance with an orchestra conducted by Dr. Richard Prior

• Solo performance at Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta’s Atlanta Young Artists Concert (04/08/2018)

Second Prize: $500

Third Prize: $300

Audience Prize: $300

Logistics

All students invited to compete live at Emory University must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Contestants are responsible for all travel expenses and hotel accommodations. Each contestant will be assigned warm-up time in Emerson Hall the morning of January 20, 2018. Practice rooms will be available at the Schwartz Center.

Competition Jury Semi-Finalist Selection

Pianist Elizabeth Pridgen enjoys a distinguished career as both a soloist and chamber musician. In 2014 she was appointed Artistic Director of the forty year old Atlanta Chamber Players, one of the leading chamber ensembles in the United States.

Ms. Pridgen has appeared in concerts at Carnegie's Zankel Hall and Weill Recital Hall, Spivey Hall in Atlanta, "Rising Stars Series" at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, and in recitals in London, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Washington D.C., Miami, San Francisco and throughout the Southeast. She performs regularly at festivals including the Rome Chamber Music Festival in Rome, Italy, the Kon-Tiki Chamber Music Festival in Oslo, Norway, The Aspen Music Festival, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Madison Chamber Music Festival and the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. Ms. Pridgen has collaborated with such artists as Elmar Oliveira, Robert McDuffie, Anne Akiko Meyers, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Lynn Harrell, the Diaz String Trio, Cuarteto Latinoamericano and the American String Quartet. Ms. Pridgen is a member of the Cortona Trio with violinist Amy Schwartz Moretti and cellist Julie Albers and the Georgian Chamber Players.

Ms. Pridgen is currently a Distinguished Artist and Piano Chair at the McDuffie Center for Strings and holds the G. Leslie Fabian Piano Chair at the Townsend School of Music at Mercer University. Her recordings include the Liszt transcription of Berlioz's Harold in Italy released in 2014 on Orchid Classics.
Soon to be released by Artek is Chausson's Concert for Violin and Piano with violinist Andrés Cárdenes.

Ms. Pridgen began her piano studies at age five and her first concert appearances were with her grandfather, violinist Martin Sauser, former Concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She received her Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School where she studied with Joseph Kalichstein and her bachelor's degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music as a student of Ann Schein.
Competition Jury

Pianist, master teacher, artistic director, editor, and judge for international competitions, William Ransom regularly appears in recital, as a soloist with orchestras, and as a chamber musician around the world. He has performed for the American ambassadors to Austria, Japan, Korea, and Ireland, and his performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio and on television in the United States, Japan, Korea, Argentina, and Poland. His recordings of Enoch Arden, by Richard Strauss, The Music of Alfredo Barili, “Listening to Memories,” and Chamber Music of Johannes Brahms were released on the ACA label. Ransom can also be heard on Heartkeys, from Rising Star Records.

Ransom has commissioned and premiered several major works by composer Stephen Paulus, and he was also the featured pianist performing music by Dwight Andrews used in August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway hit The Piano Lesson, as well as the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie based on the same play. A popular performer in many University concert series, he has played at numerous colleges around the world, including Yale, Cornell, Duke, Tulane, Vanderbilt, M.I.T., Stanford, Toho (Japan), Yonsei (Korea), and the School of the Arts (Argentina), where he also has given master classes.

Born in Boston and raised in Nashville, Ransom was a scholarship student of William Masselos at the Juilliard School (BM and MM), and he also worked with Theodore Lettvin at the University of Michigan (DMA) and Madame Gaby Casadesus at the Ravel Academy in France. Ransom is currently the Mary L. Emerson Professor of Piano and director of piano studies at Emory University. He is founder and artistic director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta and collaborates with such artists as cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Steven Isserlis; clarinetist Richard Stoltzman; members of the Juilliard, Tokyo, Cleveland, St. Petersburg, American, Lark, Cavani, Borromeo, and Muir String Quartets; violinists Elmar Oliviera, Tim Fain, and Robert McDuffie; guitarist Eliot Fisk; pianists Charles Wadsworth and Bruno Canino; and members of the Empire Brass Quintet, the Eroica Trio, and the percussion group Nexus, among many others. In the summers, Ransom is the Anna and Hays Mershon Artistic Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival in North Carolina and for a decade was an artist-faculty member of the Kamisaibara Pianists Camp in Japan.

Roberta Rust has concertized to critical acclaim around the globe, with performances at such venues as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, New York's Merkin Concert Hall, Rio de Janeiro's Sala Cecilia Meireles, Washington's Corcoran Gallery, and Seoul's KNUA Hall. Hailed for her recordings on the Centaur and Protone labels, Rust has appeared with the Lark, Ying, and Amernet String Quartets and at Miami's Mainly Mozart Festival, the Philippines' Opusfest, the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, Festival Miami, Long Island's Beethoven Festival, and France's La Gesse. Her concerto appearances have included engagements with the Houston Symphony, Philippine Philharmonic, New Philharmonic, Redlands Symphony, Boca Raton Symphonia, Knox-Galesburg Symphony, New World Symphony, Lynn Philharmonia, and orchestras in Latin America.

Dr. Rust serves on the artist faculty as professor of piano and head of the piano department at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, Florida. In 2016 she received the Deanne and Gerald Gitner and Family Excellence in Teaching Award. She has given master classes throughout Asia and the Americas and at the Rebecca Penney's Piano Festival, the University of Florida International Piano Festival and the Fondation Bell'Arte International Certificate of Piano Artists program. Rust has served as
a competition adjudicator for the New World Symphony, the Chautauqua and Brevard Festivals, and the Colburn School's Music Academy. A National Endowment for the Arts grant recipient, she has served as US artistic ambassador and has received prizes and recognition from the Organization of American States, National Society of Arts & Letters, and International Concours de Fortepiano (Paris).

Born in Texas of American Indian ancestry, Rust studied at the Peabody Conservatory, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas at Austin, and earned performer's certificates in piano and German Lieder from the Mozarteum in Salzburg. A student of Ivan Davis, Artur Balsam, John Perry, and Phillip Evans, she received a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and a doctorate from the University of Miami. Master class studies were with Gary Graffman, Leon Fleisher, Carlo Zecchi, and Erik Werba. For more information please visit www.robertarust.com.

"Roberta Rust is a powerhouse of a pianist--one who combines an almost frightening fervor and intensity with impeccable technique and spartan control." The New York Times

"There was tremendous bravura, sweep, and power...Here was a virtuosa." The Miami Herald

"She proves herself a first-rate Debussy player...This is quite simply one of the finest Debussy discs I have heard in recent memory." Fanfare Magazine

A native of Taiwan, pianist Chih-Long Hu’s performance career was launched after receiving honors including the Taipei National Concert Hall Arising Star, the Chi-Mei Artist Award, and prizes from the Mauro Monopoli International Piano Competition in Italy, the Concurs International De Piano D’Escaldes-Engordany in Andorra, the Takamatsu International Piano Competition in Japan, and San Jose International Piano Competition in California.

An active performer, Hu performs extensively in Asia, Europe, and America appearing as a concerto soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. His recent performance highlights include concerto performances of Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1, Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 3, Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2, Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, solo and chamber recitals in China, Taiwan, Korea, Canada, and throughout the U.S. Hu’s performances have been broadcast in "Performance Today" through NPR stations across the country and televised in Taiwan, China and Japan. His CD albums "Formosa Caprices", “Complete Rachmaninov Etudes-Tableaux”, and “Trifecta Trio” have received critical acclaim. His latest album of Bach Goldberg Variations has been recently released under Blue Griffin Recording.

Named “Teacher of the Year” by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association, Dr. Hu is frequently invited to give lectures and master classes, as well as to judge international and national competitions. Hu is the Artistic Director of St. Andrews Piano Academy and Festival International (New Brunswick), as well as the New York International Piano Festival.

Hu holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in piano performance from the University of Michigan, a Master's degree from Taipei National University of the Arts, and a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from National Taiwan University. His piano teachers include Arthur Greene, Hung-Kuan Chen, and Tai-Cheng Chen. Dr. Hu has served on the faculty at East Tennessee State University, and was appointed as Sandra G. Powell Endowed Professor of Piano at The University of Tennessee starting in fall 2016.
Contact

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