EMORY UNIVERSITY
YOUNG ARTIST PIANO COMPETITION

JANUARY 29, 2017

Open to pianists ages 13 to 18 in the Southeast United States
(Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia, Florida, South Carolina,
North Carolina, Mississippi, and Kentucky)

COMPETITION SPONSORS:
Dr. John and Linda Cooke
Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta
Friends of Music at Emory University
Abraham J. & Phyllis Katz Foundation
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 attending the finals beginning at 12:00 pm on Sunday, January 29, 2017 in Cherry Logan Emerson Hall, an 800-seat hall at the Schwartz Center for Performing Arts. Following a prescreening round, 12 finalists (and three alternates) will be chosen to perform and compete live at the competition final.

COMPETITION

Eligibility

The competition is open to pianists age 13 to 18 as of January 1, 2017, residing in the Southeastern United States (Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Kentucky). Twelve finalists and three alternates will be chosen to compete live on January 29, 2017. Proof of age will be required of the contestants chosen for the final round.
Application

The completed application form can be emailed or mailed to the address listed on the form.

Application Fee

$75, payable by credit card through EventBrite or by check

Deadline

The application AND prescreening repertoire must be submitted by midnight, December 1, 2016.

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, 2016.

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, 2016. Twelve finalists and three alternates will be chosen from all applications. Accepted contestants must reply no later than December 25, 2016, regarding participation in the final round at Emory University on January 29, 2017. 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 29, 2017, starting at 12:00 p.m. Contestants are allowed to play repertoire of their choice, NOT to exceed 20 minutes. There will be a Winners Concert starting at 7pm. Contestants are allowed to repeat some or all repertoire from the prescreening round. All works must be performed from memory. Repeats are optional. Finalists must confirm their repertoire selections for the final round upon confirmation of participation. Finalists’ biographies and headshots will be published on the competition web page.
Awards

Winners will be announced after the final live round at Emory University. The jury’s decisions are final and not subject to review. The first-place winner of the 2017 Emory Piano Competition will not be eligible to enter the competition again in 2018. Winners will be required to complete paperwork to receive payment of the prize.

**First Prize:** $1000 plus
- Concerto Performance Engagement with *LaGrange Symphony Orchestra*, Richard Prior, Music Director and Conductor
- Solo performance at Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta’s *Atlanta Young Artists Concert*

**Second Prize:** $500

**Third Prize:** $300

**Audience Prize:** $300

Logistics

All students invited to participate in the final round must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Finalists are responsible for all travel expenses and hotel accommodations. Each contestant will be assigned warm-up time in Emerson Hall the morning of January 29, 2017. Practice rooms will be available at the Schwartz Center.

Contact

Elena Cholakova, Competition Director
Emory University
Department of Music
1804 North Decatur Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

copy the following email: elena.cholakova@emory.edu
404-712-1194
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.

Jerome Reed is the Patricia and Rodes Hart Professor of Piano at Lipscomb University. He has performed extensively in the US, Europe, Asia, and South America, appearing in such venues as the Mendelssohnhaus in Leipzig, Germany; the Musikhochschule in Graz, Austria; and the Conservatoire Royale in Brussels, Belgium. Other appearances have included recitals and master classes in Taiwan, Japan, France, Italy, England, Hungary, and Uruguay. In summer 2014, he performed at Steinway Hall in New York. Reed is the director of the music division of the Governor's School for the Arts. He has recorded works for piano and tape for Capstone Records and in 2009 released a recording of sonatas for flute and piano with Deanna Little. Navona Records (a division of Parma Recordings), in August 2014, released his recording of Elizabeth Austin's Rose Sonata. He has given more than 50 performances in the US and abroad of Charles Ives’s Concord Sonata, which incorporate a multimedia presentation and readings from Ives's writings. In 2003 he was awarded the Avalon Award for Creative Excellence; in 2006 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Music Teachers Association; and in 2010 he was named Teacher of the Year by the same organization.

His students have won many competitions, including first place in Tennessee Music Teachers Association competitions, the Nashville International Piano Competition, the Tennessee Tech
Young Artist Competition, and Clavierfest at Middle Tennessee State University. His student piano trio, the Avalon Trio, placed third in the nation at the Music Teachers National Association Competition in New York in 2012. He has served on the faculty of the InterHarmony Music Festival in Arcidosso, Italy, and is currently on the faculty of the East/West Piano Festival in Weihai, China.

He holds the DMA and MM in piano performance from the Catholic University of America, where he was a student of Béla Bőrzsöményi-Nagy. He also studied with Jeanne-Marie Darré at the Conservatoire de Musique de Nice.

David Kalhous is increasingly gaining recognition and critical acclaim in the United States and Europe for his wide-ranging repertoire and adventurous programming spanning more than three centuries. He has appeared as a soloist with the Prague Symphony Orchestra FOK, Prague Philharmonia, Israel Symphony Orchestra, Moravian Philharmonic, and Chamber Philharmonia Pardubice. As a recitalist and chamber musician, he performed at the Prague Spring Festival, Gilmore Keyboard Festival, Czech Philharmonic Chamber Music Series, and Czech Radio's StudioLive Rising Stars Series. In New York City, he appears at Bargemusic, Symphony Center, and Spectrum; in Chicago, at PianoForte Foundation and Constellation. Kalhous regularly performs, lectures, and teaches master classes at leading American, European, and Israeli universities and conservatories.

He has recorded for Czech radio and television, and he has written, produced, and hosted programs devoted to piano music for Prague's Classic FM Radio.

Kalhous’s interest in new music has resulted in collaboration with many composers who have dedicated works to him. He regularly performs with Fonema Consort in Chicago and Konvergence in Prague. He gave the debut performance of Ligeti’s piano Études and Feldman's For Bunita Marcusin, and is preparing a CD of eight newly commissioned works for piano.

Kalhous studied at the Prague Conservatory with Jaroslav Čermák. He subsequently attended Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Rubin Academy of Music at Tel-Aviv University, and Yale University, and studied with Paul Badura Skoda, Emil Leichner, Victor Derevianko, David Northington, and Peter Frankl. He also worked with Jerome Lowenthal at the Music Academy of the West. He holds a DMA from Northwestern University, where he worked with Ursula Oppens, and previously taught at Texas Tech University School of Music.

**Competition Jury Finalist Selection**

Deborah Slover is known to concert audiences, both in Atlanta and elsewhere, as an active and outstanding performer. The Atlanta-Journal Constitution noted after one collaborative performance that “throughout these selections . . . Slover proved a skilled and sensitive partner.” She joined the music faculty of Emory University in 1978, where she teaches piano and collaborative piano, and is currently serving as Department of Music chair.

Slover has appeared as a collaborative pianist in major concert halls in the United States and Europe, including concerts in England, Wales, Russia, and Hungary. She has worked with principal players of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic and performs regularly with faculty artists at Emory University.
Slover's performances have been heard on NPR’s *Performance Today*, and she has recorded works by Olivier Messiaen on the ACA Digital label. An active choral accompanist, she performs and records regularly with the Atlanta Sacred Chorale under the direction of Eric Nelson. She has worked with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, performed with the Atlanta Boy Choir on several European tours, and appeared in concert with many of Atlanta’s well-known choruses. During the past 20 years, she has accompanied the Emory Concert Choir and the University Chorus in numerous performances at Emory and throughout the United States, including concerts under the direction of the late Robert Shaw. In 2008, Slover appeared as piano soloist in Beethoven’s *Choral Fantasy for Piano, Orchestra, and Chorus* under the baton of conductor Richard Prior.

A native of Atlanta, Slover earned degrees in piano performance and literature from the University of Georgia (BM) and the Eastman School of Music (MM).