

Stella Unica International Young Artist Piano Competition

Information & Regulations · 2026

The Stella Unica International Young Artist Piano Competition invites pianists ages 5-18 to demonstrate their artistry, receive professional evaluation, and compete for prizes and special awards.

Competition Format & Important Dates

The Piano Competition is conducted through online video submissions.

Event	Date and time
Application Deadline	October 25, 2026
Live Winners' Gala Concerts	November 14, 2026
Performance Sessions	3:00 PM and 4:30 PM
Stella Unica Online Winners' Concert	December 1, 2026

All Competition winners will be invited to perform at the live Winners' Gala Concerts and receive recognition for their achievements.

Winners who are unable to attend in person may be featured in the prerecorded Online Winners' Concert using their previously submitted competition videos. The online concert may also include selected recordings from the live Gala Concerts.

Additional details will be announced at a later date.

Live Concert Venue

Tracy Powers Concert Hall
[160 Lexington Street, Belmont, MA 02478, USA](#)

Age Divisions & Maximum Performance Time

Participants will be assigned to a division based on their age as of November 14, 2026:

Division	Ages	Maximum time
Junior	5–8	5 minutes
Pre-Intermediate	9–11	7 minutes
Intermediate	12–14	10 minutes
Senior	15–18	12 minutes

Performance Categories & Repertoire

Piano Solo

One or two contrasting works from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist, or 20th- and 21st-century repertoire.

Please see the Awards page for additional repertoire options featuring contemporary composers and selected works eligible for National Awards.

Piano Ensemble

- Piano Duet: One piano, four hands or two pianos
- Piano Trio: One piano, six hands

Participants may perform one or two contrasting works from any musical period.

Age Groups for Piano Duet & Piano Trio

For Piano Duet & Piano Trio categories, the age group is determined by the average age of all ensemble members at the time of application.

During the online application process, the system may initially assign the age group based on the oldest ensemble member. The competition administration will subsequently review the participants' ages and, where applicable, manually adjust the ensemble to the appropriate age group based on their average age.

Piano Concerto

One movement of a piano concerto, with the orchestral part performed on a second piano.

General Requirements

- The competition is open exclusively to pianists.
- Only published music may be performed.
- Simplified arrangements are not permitted.
- The same repertoire may not be entered in more than one category.
- Memorization is required for Piano Solo.
- Scores are permitted for Piano Ensemble and Piano Concerto performances.

Anonymous Video Submission

All video submissions will be evaluated anonymously. The participant's name, school, teacher's name, or other identifying information must not appear in the video, file name, video title, description, or metadata. Participants must not introduce themselves by name in the recording.

Video files and titles must include only the composer's name and the title(s) of the work(s) performed.

Personal information provided in the application form will be used for administrative purposes only and will not be shared with the jury during the evaluation process.

Participation Fees

Category	Fee per participant
Piano Solo	\$75
Piano Duet	\$45
Piano Trio	\$35
Piano Concerto	\$95

A separate application and fee are required for each category. Application fees are non-refundable.

Teacher Participation

Teachers accompanying their students in the Piano Concerto category are exempt from the participation fee.

Awards

Please review the complete list of prizes, awards, and special distinctions on the Piano Competition Awards page:

[View Piano Competition Awards →](http://www.stellaunicapiano.org/awards)
www.stellaunicapiano.org/awards

Each participating teacher will receive a Teacher Recognition Certificate.

Winners' Concerts

Selected winners will be invited to perform in the live Winners' Concerts in Massachusetts. Participation in a Winners' Concert does not require an additional fee.

Winners who cannot attend in person will be invited to participate in an online Winners' Concert.

Award Delivery

Physical awards may be mailed to winners who cannot attend the live concerts.

Shipping arrangements must be coordinated in advance with the Competition Director.

Participation confirms acceptance of these regulations. Incomplete or ineligible applications may be disqualified.