



Rose Alley Competition 2026

Piano Composition Competition

Piano Solo and Piano Duet for One Piano (Four Hands)

Overview

The **Rose Alley Competition 2026** is an artist-led international composition competition dedicated to new music for piano.

Founded to encourage creativity, artistic individuality and excellence in contemporary composition, the competition offers composers the opportunity to have their work evaluated by **an experienced jury, performed by distinguished professional pianists, including Steinway Artists**, and presented in a **dedicated concert** at **London College of Music, University of West London**.

Each Grand Prize winner will also receive professional recording and production of their winning work at **Rose Alley Studio** in London.

The competition consists of **two stages**:

Stage 1 — Online Submission

Composers submit a score together with an audio or video realisation of their work. Following the online selection process, a number of works will be selected as finalists.

Stage 2 — Live Final Concert & Jury Feedback

Selected finalist works will be performed at **London College of Music on 27 January 2027**.

Following the performances, the jury will provide brief comments and feedback on the finalist works.

Attendance at the final concert is welcomed but is **not required** for participation. All applicants are welcome to attend.

The competition welcomes composers of all nationalities and seeks to support distinctive artistic voices and new creative work.

Eligibility

The competition is open to composers of **all nationalities** and welcomes **international applicants**.

Works must have been composed on or **after 1 January 2025**.

Applicants are divided into the following age categories according to their age on **15 December 2026**.

Age	Duration
18–29	6–8 minutes
30 and over	7–12 minutes

For multi-movement works or collections of short pieces, **the total duration** must fall within the relevant limit.

Applicants may submit **up to two works**.

Each work requires:

- a separate application
- a separate application fee.

Works may have been previously performed, recorded or published.



Instrumentation and Artistic Scope

Eligible works must be written for:

- **Piano solo**
- **Piano duet for one piano (four hands)**

The competition is intended for music that explores the expressive possibilities of the **acoustic piano through conventional keyboard performance**.

Works whose principal musical effects depend upon extended or experimental techniques are not eligible.

This includes

- prepared piano
- placing objects inside the piano
- striking or treating the piano primarily as a percussion instrument
- electronic processing or live electronics as an essential compositional element
- amplification integral to the composition
- additional instruments or electronic media.

Originality and AI

The submitted work must be the applicant's own original composition. Works substantially or primarily generated by artificial intelligence, generative AI or other generative software are not eligible.

The competition does not favour any particular compositional style or aesthetic. Within the instrumentation requirements, composers are free to write in any musical language.

The jury will evaluate each work on its own artistic merits, taking into account **originality, imagination, craftsmanship and the effectiveness of the writing for piano**.

Stage 1 — Online Submission

Applicants must submit:

1. Score (PDF)

The score must be submitted as a clearly legible PDF including:

- title
- composer's name
- approximate duration
- page numbers
- clear notation and performance instructions where necessary.

2. Audio or Video Realisation

Applicants must submit one of the following:

- live recording
- studio recording
- MIDI or digital realisation
- video performance.

Professional production quality is **not required**.

Audio or video should be provided through an accessible online link, such as **YouTube, Vimeo or Sound Cloud**.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring submitted links remain accessible throughout the judging period.



Stage 2 — Live Final Concert

27 January 2027

**London College of Music
University of West London**

Finalist works will be performed **by distinguished professional pianists, including Steinway Artists.**

Following the performances, the jury will offer brief comments and feedback on each finalist work.

Attendance at the concert is **optional**.

Jury and Evaluation

The jury will consist of distinguished composers, pianists and educators based in the UK and Europe.

Works will be assessed according to:

- originality and artistic individuality
- musical imagination
- compositional technique
- structural coherence
- effectiveness of the piano writing
- clarity of notation
- development of musical ideas
- overall artistic impact.

The competition does not favour any particular aesthetic or compositional style.

The jury's decisions are final.

Where a jury member has a significant educational or professional relationship with an applicant, appropriate procedures will be followed to ensure impartiality.

Prizes

Grand Prize (One winner in each age category)

Each Grand Prize winner will receive:

- professional recording at **Rose Alley Studio**
- professional editing, mixing and mastering
- consideration for digital release through **Rose Alley Records**
- an official certificate
- official competition laurels
- an individual mentoring or feedback session with a member of the jury or another invited professional.

The jury reserves the right not to award a prize if the required artistic standard is not reached.

Winning works may also be considered for future Rose Alley concerts or recording projects.

Honourable Mentions

The jury may award Honourable Mentions to works of exceptional merit.

Recipients may receive

- digital certificate
- digital laurels
- optional written or verbal feedback.



Recording and Publication

Entrants retain copyright in their compositions.

By accepting a Grand Prize, winners grant the Organiser a non-exclusive, worldwide licence to record, reproduce and promote the winning work, and, at the Organiser's discretion, to distribute or release the resulting recording, including digitally through **Rose Alley Records**, in connection with the Competition and related artistic activities.

Finalists agree that performances and associated Competition events may be photographed, filmed or recorded for documentation and promotional purposes, including in connection with subsequent editions of the Rose Alley Competition. Such material may be published through official Rose Alley Competition, Rose Alley Studio and Rose Alley Records websites and social media channels.

Timeline

Stage	Date
Applications Open	October 2026
Submission Deadline	Tuesday 15 December 2026, 23:59 UK time
Jury Evaluation & Selection of Finalists	December 2026 – January 2027
Finalists Announced	January 2027
Live Final Concert	Wednesday 27 January 2027, London, UK
Recording Sessions	Spring 2027

Application Fee

The application fee is **£35 per submitted work** and is non-refundable.

Applicants may submit a maximum of **two works**.

An application is considered complete only when both the application form and the corresponding application fee have been received.

Each work must be submitted separately and is subject to a separate application fee.

Travel & Participation

International applicants are warmly welcomed to participate.

Attendance at the final concert is **not required** for submission, selection or receipt of a prize.

Finalists and winners who wish to attend events or recording sessions in London are responsible for arranging and paying for their own travel and accommodation.

The competition covers the professional recording and production associated with the prize but does **not cover** travel or accommodation expenses.



Purpose of the Competition

The **Rose Alley Competition** seeks to foster an artist-led environment that encourages:

- creativity and artistic individuality
- the development of distinctive artistic voices
- meaningful dialogue between artists, performers and jurors
- opportunities for artistic work to be performed and experienced by audiences
- professional experience and recognition
- engagement with the wider musical community.

Apply to the Rose Alley Competition

Application deadline : Tuesday 15 December 2026, 23:59 UK time.

[Apply Now](#)