



FISCHOFF

NATIONAL CHAMBER
MUSIC COMPETITION

The 52nd Annual Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition: May 9-11, 2025 Junior Division Official Rule Book & Entry Instructions

The live rounds of the 2025 Fischhoff Competition will be held at the University of Notre Dame, in South Bend, Indiana.

Important Dates

Sunday, December 15, 2024 - Online application opens

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 - Submission deadline for all application materials at 11:59 PM (Eastern)

By the week of March 24, 2025 - Applicants notified of video audition results by email

Friday, May 9, 2025 - Live Quarterfinal Round

Saturday, May 10, 2025 - Live Semifinal Round

Sunday, May 11, 2025 - Live Final Round & Concert

Questions regarding the entry process should be directed to Miki Strabley, Competition Director, well before the deadline: miki@fischhoff.org. Please do not email fischhoff@fischhoff.org as that inbox is not regularly monitored.

The Junior 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.

Eligibility & Rules

- 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.
- The Fischhoff Competition is unable to accommodate ensembles that have more than one piano, or are vocal in nature, or require more than three minutes for set-up and tear-down.
- 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.

Age Requirement

Junior Division ensemble members must be **age 18 or younger and in high school or below**; However, an ensemble member whose 19th birthday occurs before May 11, and whose grade level is *not higher than grade 12* on May 11, 2025, will be allowed to participate in a Junior Division ensemble.

Documentation of grade level status will be required in these instances (for example, a letter from a school counselor affirming grade level).

Senior Division ensembles may include members who are age 18 or younger. Refer to the Senior Division Rulebook for additional information.

Previous Prizewinners

Junior Division ensembles may include individuals who have previously won first prize *only* if those

individuals comprise fewer than half of the ensemble's membership (i.e. a trio or quartet will have only 1 member who has won first prize).

Junior Division Video Audition Requirements

The audition video recording must include:

- At least **two contrasting movements**, not necessarily from the same work
- A **minimum of 15 minutes** of total *playing* time.
- The audition video recording must be performed by the same players who would appear in the live performances in May.
- Ensembles must be careful that the video submission is **at least 15 minutes of performance time**. Applicants that do not submit the minimum performance time requirement will not advance to the screening round.

Repertoire Details

- Transcriptions are permissible.
- Recordings will frequently exceed 15 minutes. **Performance time must be at least 15 minutes.**
- Repeats are optional.
- Works performed in the video audition round are not required to be included in the live performance repertoire.
- The audition video recording must be performed by the same players who would appear in the live performances in May.
- Note: Junior Division ensembles selected to advance to the live performances in May will be required to submit **a minimum of 20 minutes** of repertoire for the live rounds.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in disqualification.

Audition videos will be viewed by a screening panel to determine acceptance into the Live Rounds of the Competition.

The panel will listen and watch for interpretation, ensemble sound and unity, technical accuracy, and overall performance effect. Their decisions are final and comments will not be available after the screening.

Detailed information on recording and submitting your video and entry materials can be found below beginning on page 4. Entry forms will open on December 15. Check www.fischhoff.org for updated information.

Fischhoff Competition Live Performance Rounds – May 9-11, 2025

Live Performance Repertoire Requirements

Repertoire must include:

- A minimum of **20 minutes** of total *playing* time
- At least **three** contrasting movements
- These must come from **at least two works of contrasting style and period** (see below).

For purposes of this competition, "works of contrasting styles and periods" should fit clearly into one of the following categories:

1770 and earlier (Baroque and earlier)

1770-1810 (Classical)

1811-1900 (Romantic)

1900-1980 (Modern)

1981-present (Contemporary)

Additional Information

- Transcriptions are permissible.
- Ensembles whose repertoire is primarily from the 20th century to the present must clearly represent more than one style.
- If repertoire choices are technically from different periods listed above, but composed within 15 years of each other, contact the Fischhoff well in advance for approval: miki@fischhoff.org
- Ensembles are encouraged to include a work/works by historically underrepresented composers.
- Jurors will select 12-15 minutes of music from the submitted repertoire list. Ensembles will be informed of the jury's selections upon entering the warm-up room prior to their performance.

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.

Quarterfinal & Semifinal Rounds

All junior division ensembles will perform on Friday, May 9, in the Quarterfinal Round. Ensembles that advance to the semifinal round will perform Saturday afternoon, May 10. On Saturday morning, ensembles that do not advance to the semifinals will participate in masterclasses with the jury.

Final Round

Finalists will be announced on Saturday evening, May 10. At least one member of each finalist ensemble must be present to attend a mandatory Finalist Meeting at the conclusion of the announcements. At this meeting, finalists will be required to make important decisions concerning their final round repertoire. Non-finalist ensembles will have an opportunity to speak with jurors following the announcements on Saturday evening.

Junior Division Finalists will include the top three ensembles in both junior division categories. Finals will be held on Sunday, May 11. Performance times will be determined prior to the Saturday evening Finalist Meeting.

Gold Medalist Concert

The Gold Medal winners in each division will perform in a concert on Sunday afternoon, May 11, following the awards ceremony. Please clear any potential conflicts.

Prizes

In each Junior Division category (Wind and String), three medals and cash prizes will be awarded (cash amounts are per ensemble, not per member):

- 1st Prize and Gold Medal - \$2,500
- 2nd Prize and Silver Medal - \$2,000
- 3rd Prize and Bronze Medal - \$1,500

The American Brass Quintet will award the **American Brass Quintet Brass Ensemble Prize** of \$500 to the highest-ranked Junior Wind Division brass ensemble.

The Horszowski Trio will award the **Horszowski Trio Prize** of \$500 to the highest-ranked Junior String Division piano ensemble.

The **Kenneth Geoffroy Memorial Award** for Michiana area Junior Division Ensembles: To encourage the participation of local (60-mile radius of South Bend) junior chamber music ensembles, a special \$800 cash prize will be awarded. Any area group wishing to compete for the Geoffroy Award must participate in the video audition of the Competition and must meet all Junior Division entry requirements. If a local ensemble does not advance past the video audition, the award will be given to the highest ranked ensemble from that round of the Competition.

NPR's From the Top

The Junior Division Gold Medal Winners will perform live on NPR's *From the Top*, which showcases America's most outstanding young classical musicians. Recording will take place at a time and location arranged by *From the Top*. Transportation and accommodations will be provided by *From the Top*. Note: *From the Top* reserves the right to cancel the appearance if the ensemble has already appeared on its program. The Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association is not responsible in the event that *From the Top* cancels an appearance.

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 (1 PDF per movement) will also be required. Additional information will be provided upon acceptance into the competition.

Location/Travel/Lodging

- The Competition is held at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.
- All travel, lodging, and meal expenses are the responsibility of the ensemble.
- Information regarding a host hotel will be provided to quarterfinalist ensembles upon notification of acceptance.
- Any ensemble with one or more participants under age 18 must have a designated adult chaperone with them at the Competition.
- If you're planning to travel to the competition by air, please be aware that REAL ID enforcement begins

on May 7, 2025. All domestic air travel will require a passport or REAL ID for anyone 18 years and older. More information can be found at <http://dhs.gov/real-id>.

PACMan Program

The Peer Ambassadors for Chamber Music (PACMan) program offers Junior Division ensembles the opportunity to connect with area elementary school students to perform and discuss their experiences in music on Friday of the Competition. Ensembles interested in participating should have some previous experience with presenting programs for students.

Ensembles selected to participate will have their entry fees reimbursed. Ensembles participating in PACMan programs must arrive in South Bend by Thursday evening. A limited number of opportunities will be available. Ensembles should indicate their interest on the entry form. Due to advanced arrangements with host schools, participating ensembles will be obligated to perform.

Questions regarding PACMan programs should be directed to: Kara Kane, Education Director:
kara@fischoff.org.

Entry Instructions

Online Ensemble Application

The online ensemble application will open on December 15, 2024. The deadline is February 19, 2025 at 11:59 PM Eastern time. The following must be submitted in order for the application to be considered complete:

- Entry fees
- Proof of age
- Application form
- Repertoire info & Video recording links (separate YouTube links for each movement **or** one link to a single unlisted YouTube playlist)

Entry Fees

Non-refundable online entry fees:

\$135.00	Trio
\$175.00	Quartet
\$215.00	Quintet
\$255.00	Sextet

Proof of Age

Each ensemble member must provide proof of age. A *legible* photocopy of a driver's license, birth certificate, student identification with birthdate, or passport must be emailed. *Please combine all IDs into one PDF document.*

Application Form

It is recommended that you collect all necessary information before starting this form, including the following ensemble member information:

- Countries of birth
- Birth dates
- Ages of ensemble members as of Sunday, May 11, 2025
- Home addresses
- Emails
- Cell phone numbers
- Ethnicity information for grant purposes

Other information:

- Ensemble name, city/state, school (if applicable)
- Contact person & email, phone number, address
- A *brief* ensemble bio. Include any distinctive or unique features about your ensemble. Please do not confine your comments to solely musical matters. This information will be used to encourage media interest and will *not* be made available to jurors. (PDF, Word, or Google Doc only)
- Ensemble website and social media handles, if applicable.
- Upload at least one high-resolution ensemble photo in color. Ensemble photos will be shared on Fischoff's social media. If ensemble photos were taken by a professional photographer, please provide photo credit information.


Video Recording Requirements

The audition recordings will be submitted as **unlisted YouTube links, or a single unlisted YouTube playlist**.

- Ensembles will submit a separate video link for each movement.
- Movements must be recorded in one unedited take. Audio must be from the same take, but can be from an external microphone(s).
- A movement must be recorded in its entirety; however, breaks may be taken between movements.
- Movements that are attacca may be submitted as one complete video but must include timestamps at the beginnings of each movement.
- Videos may **not** be edited or spliced.
- Fischhoff highly recommends using an external microphone to sync with the video.
- The recording must include all ensemble members performing in the same space together at all times.
- Each part of each piece must be performed by live performers. Works including pre-recorded tracks or computer generated electronics are not acceptable for this competition.
- The picture should remain stationary without panning, fade-in/out, close-up techniques or use of multiple cameras.
- The ensemble should fill the screen as much as possible.
- Minimum video resolution is 1280x720 (720p).
- **Ensemble/individual names and school affiliations are not permitted on the video, within the recording or in the background of the performance.**
- In the YouTube page description and title on each video, include **only** your 6 digit code, the name of the composer, the work & the movement.

Do not delete your original videos from your files after uploading to YouTube. Fischhoff may request it at a later date.

Video Identification Requirements

- The **only identification** on the video link should be a six-digit code selected by the ensemble (e.g. 8675-30) and the name of the composer, work, movement.
For example:
8675-30 Ravel, String Quartet in F Major, Mvmt I
- Do **NOT** include your ensemble, school or member names in the title of the video file or anywhere within the recording or on YouTube.
- The YouTube identification() may be the name of *one ensemble member* but may not be the name of the ensemble.
- Schools and coaches should **not** use their own YouTube accounts.
- **If a third party is assisting with your video recording, make certain they are aware of the requirements above.**

Video Audition Repertoire List

For each work list:

- Title & Composer
- Include composer year of birth/death & country of birth
- Movements with timings of *playing time* in minutes/seconds
- Total *playing time* for each work in minutes/seconds
- At the end of the entire program, list **overall video audition playing time** in minutes/seconds.

The repertoire list and videos should be submitted as a PDF or Google Doc link following the sample format below.

Sample repertoire format:

Six-digit code: #8675-30

Work, Composer, year of birth/death, country of birth

I. movement name (timing) YouTube video link (**or** one link to a single unlisted YouTube playlist)

II. movement name (timing) YouTube video link

III. movement name (timing) YouTube video link
(total time)

Work, Composer, year of birth/death, country of birth
I. movement name (timing) YouTube video link
II. movement name (timing) YouTube video link
III. movement name (timing) YouTube video link
(total time)

Work, Composer, year of birth/death, country of birth
I. movement name (timing) YouTube video link
II. movement name (timing) YouTube video link
III. movement name (timing) YouTube video link
(total time)

Total time: xxx

Notifications

The contact person for each ensemble will receive an email acknowledgement when their entry is processed. Each ensemble's contact person will also be notified of the screening panel's decision by email by late March. Please provide an accurate email address and check email frequently.

Any questions should be directed by email to miki@fischoff.org well ahead of the entry deadline.

Complete entries must be RECEIVED by Wednesday, February 19 at 11:59 pm Eastern time.