

23-24 May, 2025 Competition

THE VIBRAPHONE PROJECT
Spring VibeFest
& Competition

May 23 - 24, 2025
Center for Mallet Percussion Research
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

Venue partner:



Sponsored by:



Schedule

First video submission round due February 1st, 2025

Semi-finalists will be notified mid-February.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Day 1 (5/23)	2nd round competition Open to public Classical & Jazz category take place concurrently	Reserve for possible clinics/presentation (45' +15' break)	Final round in evening concert (Ticketed) 3 performers in each category. 6 total. Winners announced at the end of concert Open to public Ticketed event
Poster sessions and merch tables throughout the day			
Day 2 (5/24)	Masterclass & Clinic Ayano Kataoka 10am-11am: Ayano masterclass (prior registration required) 11am-11:15am: <i>Break</i> 11:15am-12:05pm: Ayano Clinic 12:05pm-1pm: <i>Lunch</i>	Masterclass & Clinic Oliver Mayman 1:00pm-2:00pm: Oliver masterclass 2:00pm-2:15pm: <i>Break</i> 2:15pm-3:05pm: Oliver class 3:05pm-3:15pm: <i>Break</i> VPI Officers 3:15pm-4:30pm: VPI Clinics Afternoon Concert for Call for Scores showcases 5pm-6:30pm	Evening Concert Winners showcase Guest judges
Poster sessions and sponsors & VPI merch tables throughout the day			

**Schedule is subject to change*

Competition Details

Competition Categories	Classical and Jazz	
Age	No age groups or limit	
Application deadline	February 1st, 2025 Via this Google Form, video submission unlisted on YouTube.	
Entry Fee	\$20 via PayPal here (vibraphoneprojectinc@gmail.com)	
Format	1st Round Video Submission (Videos are due February 1st, 2025) Applicants moving on to the in-person rounds will be notified mid-Feb.	
	2nd Round In-person May 23rd, 2025. Center for Mallet Percussion Research (CMPR) in Kutztown, PA (USA)	
	Final Round In-person evening concert (May 24th, 2025: CMPR) - Top 3 in each category from 2nd Round (6 total) - Winners will perform 10-15 minutes set on second evening concert	
Prizes	Judge's feedback for the first round Merch from sponsors with a total value of \$3000. Mallets, mallet bags, percussion accessories, auxiliary instruments. 8 prizes total (1 winner, second, third places prize, Audience Choice Award. In each category) Prizes sponsors: Marimba One, Black Swamp Percussion, Encore Mallets/Salyers Percussion, Mallettech, Dream Cymbals, and Artifact Percussion.	
Judges	Classical	Jazz
	1st round: Dr. Matthew Geiger, Dr. Joey Van Hassel, Dr. Brian Graiser	1st round: Jen Martinez-Bre, Jerry Tachoir
	2nd & final round: Ayano Kataoka, Dr. Matthew Lau	2nd & final round: Oliver Mayman, Jen Martinez-Bre
<i>If applicants have concern and doubt regarding repertoire, please email Dr. Matthew Lau for the classical side, and Oliver Mayman for the jazz side.</i>		

Repertoire

Videos must be unedited but there can be breaks in the video between pieces. No We guarantee written or recorded feedback from judges for all video submissions. Please upload submissions on YouTube unlisted.

Videos don't need to be professionally recorded in a studio, but do use the highest resolution possible if recording on mobile devices. High quality audio when possible, simple handheld recording devices from Zoom and Roland are preferred. If you choose to record the audio separately with microphones on your preferred DAW (digital audio workstation), please do not add any filter, reverb, and effects.

First Round (Video Submission)

Classical Category

Required Piece	<i>Violin concerto in A minor</i> from the Goldenberg book by J.S.Bach (Beginning to fifth measure of letter D)
One piece from below	
	<i>Links No. 1</i> by Stuart Saunder Smith
	1 song from <i>Pop songs for guitar</i> by Toru Takemitsu
	<i>Olana</i> by Kyle Gann
	<i>Meditation</i> by Takayoshi Yoshioka
	<i>When Love Prevails</i> by David Burge
	1 movement from <i>Four Bagatelles</i> by Gitta Steiner
	<i>Three Caprices</i> by Rene Leibowitz
	1 movement from <i>Suite for Vibraphone</i> by Alexander Lepak
	1 movement from <i>Ritratti Surreali</i> by Massimo Lauricella

The judges will provide written feedback to all the applicants.

Judges

Dr. Matthew Geiger, Dr. Joey Van Hassel, Dr. Brian Graiser

Jazz Category

Required Tune	<i>"Bag's Groove"</i> (Blues in F) by Milt Jackson
One Tune with any of the following straight-eighth grooves:	
	Bossa Nova
	Afro-Latin
	Funk
	Any other straight-eighth groove

Please prepare 5-10 minutes in total. Submissions must be in the following format: Head, Solo over 2 choruses, Head. Please note that applicants must use and provide their own backing tracks.

Tips on Backing Track Usage

Any form of accompaniment playback is permitted for this round - for example iReal Pro playback, any backing track off of Youtube, Band-in-a-Box playback, or your own backing track (if you're technically proficient with any audio software). No preference will be given to any specific form of accompaniment playback, as not everyone has access to all or some of the suggested playback accompaniment methods. Regardless of whatever playback you choose, both the playback and your playing must be audible.

The judges will provide written feedback to all the applicants.

Judges

Jen Martinez-Bre, Jerry Tachoir

Second Round (May 23rd, 2025)

Classical Category

Required Piece	<i>Etude No. 8 from David Friedman's Vibraphone Technique–Dampening and Pedalling</i>
One piece from below	
	<i>Omar I</i> by Franco Donatoni
	<i>Omar II</i> by Franco Donatoni
	<i>Calculo Secreto</i> by Jose Manuel Lopez Lopez
	<i>Vibra-elufa</i> by Karlheinz Stockhausen
	<i>Loops II</i> by Philippe Hurel
	2-3 Movements from <i>Economy of Movements</i> by Robert Honstein
	<i>Mourning Dove Sonnet</i> by Christopher Deane
	<i>Links No. 4 or 7</i> by Stuart Saunders Smith.
	<i>Winter Circle</i> by Kirsten Volness
	<i>Livre de Claviers Vibraphone Solo</i> by Manoury
	<i>Concerto Piccolino</i> by Babbitt
	<i>The Labyrinth</i> by Chappell Kingsland
	<i>Fantasy IIIB</i> by Nicholas Deyoe
	<i>Texas Hoedown</i> by David Friedman
	V Juri Seo
	<i>Hard-Boiled Capitalism and the Day Mr. Friedman Noticed Google is a Verb</i> by Ben Wahlund
	<i>Amethyst</i> by Andy Akiho
	2-3 movements from: <i>Three Pieces for Vibraphone</i> <i>Sonata for Solo Vibraphone</i> <i>Bagatelles for Vibraphone</i> by Gitta Steiner
	Selections from <i>Short Stories</i> by Martin Matalon
	Selections from <i>Ritratti Surreali</i> by Massimo Lauricella

Judges: Ayano Kataoka, Dr. Matthew Lau

Jazz Category

Please prepare the following two tunes. Total playing time should not exceed 10 minutes.

One medium/up-tempo swing tune (quarter note = 160 minimum) with at least two choruses of solo.

One solo, unaccompanied ballad (no backing track). Use of four mallets is recommended. Intros, endings, improvisation and other arrangement elements are up to the performer's discretion.

Performers must provide and upload the backing tracks via Dropbox in advance. We will provide all audio playback equipment in the room.

Judges

Oliver Mayman, Jen Martinez-Bre

Final Round (May 23rd, 2025)

Final round will take place at the first evening concert.

Top 3 from each category will compete. 6 finalists in total.

Classical Category

Please prepare a program of your choice of at least 15 minutes, not more than 20 minutes in total. Pieces performed in the 2nd round may be repeated in this round.

Jazz Category

Please prepare a program of your choice of 15 minutes maximum. Performers may include one unaccompanied piece if desired. Performers must upload backing tracks via Dropbox in advance. We will provide all audio playback equipment in the hall. Pieces performed in the 2nd round may not be repeated in this round.

Winners will be announced at the end of the concert.

Each winner will perform a 10-15 minutes program in the second evening showcase concert. Pieces can be picked from previous rounds. VPI will provide a live rhythm section for the jazz winner.

Judging Criteria

Judging will be based on techniques, accuracy, artistic ability, interpretation, phrasing, stage presence, tone production.

VPI members will be judging the 1st video round. External judges will judge the live rounds. Final judging will be based on a combined score from all of the judges.

Not all prizes will be awarded, and will be determined by the jury members i.e. if the candidate doesn't meet a certain playing criteria.

Compiled and prepared by

Dr. Matthew Lau, Dr. Matthew Geiger, Dr. Joseph Van Hassel, Dr. Brian Graiser, Oliver Mayman, Jen Martinez-Bre

October 2024