



**The International Society of Bassists**  
**Double Bass Maker's Competition**  
*Rules and Guidelines 2013*

#### COMPETITION OBJECTIVE

(1.1) The Competition's objective is to inspire the creation of outstanding, artistic, concert-quality double basses. Those judging are instructed to identify those double basses having the greatest artistic merit, technical execution, tone quality, and ease of playing.

#### ELIGIBILITY

(2.1) All entry forms and fees must be received by the ISB on or before May 2, 2013. The entry fee covers ISB membership for one year, admission to 2013 ISB convention general events, and the 2013 ISB Maker's Competition. To enter the 2013 ISB Maker's Competition, complete the entry form included with these rules and guidelines. Questions? Contact the International Society of Bassists at 14070 Proton Rd. Suite 100, LB 9, Dallas, TX 75244, (972) 233-9107 ext. 204, fax (972) 490-4219, email [info@ISBworldoffice.com](mailto:info@ISBworldoffice.com).

#### GENERAL RULES

(3.1) Rules and judging procedures for the Double Bass Maker's Competition have been designed to insure fairness to all competitors. Double basses submitted for Competition must have been completed after June, 2011. Instruments may not be entered if they have already received awards in other Competitions. The decision of the judges is final.

(3.2) Master Bass Luthier status is granted to an instrument maker who has been awarded Gold Medals in three different ISB Competitions for bass making. Those makers designated Master Bass Luthier status are not allowed to enter further ISB Double Bass Luthier Competitions.

(3.3) Competitors may enter one double bass for consideration for certificates, awards or prizes.

(3.4) No workmanship or tone judge may have seen, heard, or played on any double bass entered in the Competition prior to the date of the Competition.

(3.5) No Competition Committee member may enter the Competition.

(3.6) The International Society of Bassists will take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of instruments entered into the competition and exhibition. However, the ISB is not responsible for any loss, damage or destruction to any instrument during the competition (including the period during which instruments are stored before and/or after the competition). Competitors are responsible for insuring their own instruments.

(3.7) Contestants are financially responsible for the transportation of their instrument both to and from the competition site.

#### REGISTRATION

(4.1) Competition entry forms are available from the International Society of Bassists. Write to the International Society of Bassists at 14070 Proton Rd., Suite 100, LB 9, Dallas, TX 75244, (972) 233-9107 ext. 204, fax (972) 490-4219, email [info@ISBworldoffice.com](mailto:info@ISBworldoffice.com), or visit the ISB website at [www.ISBworldoffice.com](http://www.ISBworldoffice.com).

(4.2) **If you are shipping in advance**, entries must arrive at the designated judging facility by Wednesday, May 29, 2013. **If you are transporting entries yourself**, you must arrive at the designated judging facility by 6 PM Eastern Time on Sunday, June 2, 2011.

(4.3) All entry fees and registration forms must arrive to the ISB office in Dallas, by Thursday, May 2, 2013.

## AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHENTICITY

(5.1) All makers entering the Competition must sign an affidavit on the entry form indicating that the instrument has been made entirely by their own hands. Fittings such as tuning machines (pegs), tailpieces and endpins on the instrument may be commercially produced. Makers are not permitted to sub-contract work on instruments submitted.

(5.2) Factory produced or mass produced or instruments made using the skills and labor of more than the single/sole/one individual double bass maker are not eligible for the competition (except for rule 5.3).

(5.3) Two makers ("co-makers") may work together to enter one instrument if the co-makers have been previously established as a known "team." Neither of the co-makers may also enter an instrument on their own. If the co-makers win any awards, only one certificate and/or medal will be presented to the team.

## ANONYMITY RULES

(6.1) In an effort to insure impartiality, the identity of the makers of the instruments is withheld from the judges during the Competition. To prevent the judges from identifying the maker by looking at the instrument's label, brand, or stamped mark, it is the responsibility of the contestant to make sure that all such labels, brands, or stamped marks are covered or otherwise concealed at the time of entry. Even so, all instruments must have a label, brand, or stamped mark. This is so that the maker may be positively identified, if necessary, at the conclusion of the Competition after the judging has taken place. Once the instruments have been entered into the contest, each is given a randomly assigned secret number known only to the Competition Facilitator. At the conclusion of the Competition, we want to be able to examine the hidden maker's label, brand, or stamp to insure that the instrument is returned to its rightful owner. Any violation of these rules will lead to disqualification. Competitor lists will not be available until the completion of the judging.

## RULES COMMITTEE

(7.1) The responsibility for interpretation of Competition rules, the settling of disputes and dealing with questions arising during the Competition lies with the ISB rules committee.

## RULES INFRACTIONS

(8.1) Infractions of rules will be determined by the rules committee after consultation with the appropriate judges. Instruments which do not comply with Competition rules will be disqualified. All entry fees for disqualified items will be forfeited. Any maker who is caught attempting to commit fraud in the Competition by submitting the work of others in his/her name will be disqualified from the Competition and may be banned from all future ISB Competitions.

## RESTRICTIONS ON MATERIALS

(9.1) Under the Endangered Species Act, under States Customs does not permit the importation of elephant ivory, tortoise-shell or whalebone. Items made from these banned materials that cross United States borders may be confiscated by United States Customs.

(9.2) Double basses must be made of predominately wood material. Fiberglass, carbon fiber, Kevlar, epoxy and other such materials may be used, but sparingly.

## INSTRUMENT SETUP

(10.1) Prior to the announced time of the beginning of official judging, proper setup of instruments must be verified by the maker or his representative, or by the official ISB representative, according to instructions provided by the maker. Once judging begins, access to instruments will not be permitted until the completion of the competition.

(10.2) The ISB will designate a qualified luthier to handle small simple repairs and adjustments should the need arise. This will include replacing broken strings and closing open seams between the ribs and plates. A luthier designated by the ISB will close any such open seams with very dilute hide glue to enable the instrument to participate in the tone competition. The judges will be informed of the repair and shown its location on the instrument. Once the instrument is returned to the competitor, he/she may easily reopen the seam and repair it to his/her satisfaction.

(10.3) Luthiers who would prefer that no one repair his/her instrument in the event of a more extensive problem should mark "NO" in the box on the front page of the registration form and initial. Hence, any instrument which required extensive repairs will be removed from the Competition and the Competition fee will be refunded. If a problem occurs during the

judging phase of the Competition, the ISB cannot contact the competitor because this would necessitate a breach of security concerning anonymity.

#### INSTRUMENT WORKMANSHIP JUDGING

(11.1) Workmanship judging will be accomplished by three (3) judges and will be divided into two (2) rounds -- evaluation and medal. In the evaluation round, each instrument will be evaluated by each judge independently and without discussion with the other judges.

(11.2) The three (3) judges will be chosen by the board of directors with the recommendation of the Competition Chair and will consist of professional luthiers employed full time in the making, repairing, and/or restoration of violin family instruments.

(11.3) Instrument workmanship evaluation will be divided into six categories, totaling 100 points:

1. Setup --- 15 points --- Includes bridge, post, pegs, tailpiece, fingerboard, nut, saddle, and endpin.
2. Varnish --- 10 points --- Includes color, transparency, evenness of application, ground and texture.
3. Modeling --- 10 points --- Includes arching, surface texture, f-holes, including positioning and shape relative to arching.
4. Scroll --- 10 points --- Includes model, flowing lines, pegbox, finish work, and overall character.
5. Construction --- 20 points --- Includes outline, glue joints, bending and fitting of ribs and purfling, execution of neck, edges, corners, f-holes, scroll, and finish work.
6. Overall Impression --- 35 points --- Includes originality, choice of materials, elegance and overall consistency of style, and artistry.

(11.4) Any and/or all instruments that receive a recommendation from at least one (1) workmanship judge will receive at least a Certificate of Merit (Workmanship). During the medal round, the Certificate of Merit instruments from the evaluation round will be reviewed by all judges working together. Any and/or all instruments which receive a unanimous vote as showing superior quality of workmanship will be recommended for Gold Medals. Please read the rules explaining Gold Medals, Silver Medals, and Certificates of Merit.

#### INSTRUMENT TONE JUDGING

(12.1) Tone judging will be divided into three (3) rounds -- preliminary, evaluation and medal. In the preliminary round, each instrument will be evaluated by three (3) playing judges who will select those instruments which, in his/her opinion, should be given further consideration in the evaluation round. In the evaluation round, each instrument chosen from the preliminary round will be further evaluated by the judges to determine which, in his/her opinion, is of concert quality and should be considered by all judges in the medal round. Any and/or all instruments that receive a recommendation by at least one (1) tone judge will receive at least a Certificate of Merit (Tone). During the medal round, the Certificate of Merit instruments from the evaluation round will be reviewed by all judges working together. Any and/or all instruments which receive a unanimous vote as being instrument of concert quality tone will be recommended for Gold Medals. Please read the rules explaining Gold Medals, Silver Medals, and Certificates of Merit.

(12.2) The three (3) judges will be chosen by the board of directors with the recommendation of the Competition Chair and will consist of one (1) professional double bassist whose primary source of income is with a full time professional orchestra, one (1) professional double bassist whose primary source of income is earned as a jazz bassist, and one (1) professional double bassist whose primary source of income is from a College, University, Conservatory, or other School of Music as a full time double bass instructor and is an active soloist.

(12.3) Instrument tone evaluation will be divided into six categories or more, at the discretion of the tone judges. The tone judges may choose, at their own discretion, the point range for each category. The six suggested categories are:

1. Tone --- color, sustain, pizz and arco qualities, able to play in tune, a pleasing sound, etc.
2. Dynamic Range --- responsiveness, soft to loud, etc.
3. Balance --- evenness of tone through all ranges, etc.
4. Projection --- tone quality from a distance, etc.
5. Ergonomics --- physical playability, accessibility of left hand, bow clearance, etc.
6. Overall Impression --- personal feel, first impressions, enjoyment of instrument, etc.

## DOUBLE BASS CONVENTION FAVORITE AWARD

(13.1) After the workmanship and tone judging is completed during the first days of the ISB Convention, the instruments will be open to public viewing. Those wishing to cast a single vote for Convention Favorite may do so using the ballots provided at the gallery exit.

(13.2) Only one vote may be cast per person during the Convention and only members of the International Society of Bassists registered as participants in the Convention and who are sixteen (16) years of age or older may cast votes. Vendors and Competition competitors may not participate in the Convention Favorite voting. Children who are fifteen (15) years of age or younger may not enter the Competition room unless accompanied by a responsible adult. Under no circumstance will those who are fifteen (15) years of age or younger be allowed to handle the Competition instruments.

(13.3) A single Convention Favorite Award will be given to the double bass that earns the most votes from Convention participants. The double basses that earn the second and third highest amount of votes will receive Convention Favorite Honorable Mention awards.

(13.4) A full-time Competition Room Monitor, designated by the Competition Chair, will oversee all instruments, remind Convention participants of instrument handling precautions, and will pass out and collect voting ballots. Only a limited number of Convention participants will be allowed in the Competition room at any given time as per the room monitor's discretion. Convention participants may bring their own bows to assist them in their selection of their favorite instrument.

(13.5) Extreme care should be taken by all Convention participants entering the Competition/Exhibition room so as not to injure or damage any Competition or Exhibition instruments. Any damage whatsoever should be reported to the Room Monitor immediately. Those responsible for the damage will also be responsible for all repair costs to the instrument(s) damaged.

(13.6) All Convention participants will be required to sign a written statement concerning the fact that they are responsible for any and all damages they inflict, whether it be by accident or other, to any and all instruments in the Competition/Exhibition room.

(13.7) Luthiers who would prefer that no one outside the workmanship and tone judges and ISB designates handle or play their double bass should mark "No" in the box on the front page of the registration form and initial. Luthiers who wish that their instrument not be handled or played, thereby not competing in the Convention Favorite Category, will have their instrument placed off limits to Convention participants.

(13.8) Participants who ignore the rules and instructions of the Competition room will be dismissed from the Competition room immediately and may be dismissed from the ISB Convention upon conference with the ISB Board of Directors and Competition Chair.

## SILVER MEDALS

(14.1) A Silver Medal is awarded if judges recommend a Gold Medal in one category and award no medal or certificate in the other category. The categories referred to for double basses are Workmanship and Tone.

## GOLD MEDALS

(15.1) For an instrument to receive a Gold Medal, it must be recommended by all designated judges for such a medal in both of its categories. In other words, an instrument must receive a Silver Medal in the Workmanship category and a Silver Medal in the Tone category to receive a Gold Medal. Instruments considered superior in both categories should receive at least a Certificate of Merit in both categories. Therefore, it is possible for an instrument to receive two Certificates of Merit or a Certificate of Merit and a Silver Medal and a Convention Favorite award or Convention Favorite Honorable Mention award and not receive a Gold Medal.

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