



International Society of Bassists

2017 Solo Division – David Murray, Chair

Eligibility

- Contestants must be older than 18 and younger than 31 on the day the competition begins.
- Must be an ISB member at the time of online application using the Decision Desk platform. Entry fee is \$50. If you're not a current member you can join at <http://www.isbworldoffice.com/join.asp>
- If you'd rather make a payment using your PayPal account please contact office@isbworldoffice.com for instructions.
- Must not have previously won first prize in the solo division.
- Must not have previously given a New York debut recital or issued a solo CD on a commercial label.
- Must submit a resume with the online application that includes a chronological list of all private teachers, education, major appearances, honors and awards, and current professional or student status.
- Must submit a repertoire list with the online application, including tuning (orchestral or solo). Solo division semi-finalists planning to use a staff accompanist supplied by the ISB should make plans to arrive in Ithaca, New York by Sunday, June 4th for rehearsal. Solo division entrants may send piano parts after submitting their online application, or immediately after notification that they are a semi-finalist.
- Deadline for submitting online application for the Solo division preliminary round is January 9, 2017.
- The competition will begin June 5, 2017, on the campus of Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. Finals for the solo division will be held June 6th, with an announcement of winners that evening.
- Formal attire is not required. Contestants should dress neatly (appropriate for a masterclass setting) but comfortably.

Preliminary Round Application

By January 9, 2017, applicants for the Solo Division are required to submit a Preliminary Round high-quality digital recording (audio only, MP3 files preferred, from either a live or studio performance, a separate file for each piece, identified by the name of the piece and not including the competitor's name) as part of the Decision Desk application. Any tuning (ie: solo, orchestral, tuning in 5ths, etc) is acceptable. This should contain from 20-30 minutes of music and include the following categories:

1. A movement of a concerto or sonata, with piano accompaniment.

2. A movement from a solo cello suite by JS Bach or the Solo Sonata by GP Telemann.
3. A piece of the performer's own choice.

Semi-Final and Final Rounds

All applicants advanced to the Semi-Final Round will be notified by Monday, February 13, 2017. During the course of the Semi-Final round the performer is to choose 25-30 minutes of music from the list below but must include the required work (#5). Any tuning (ie: solo, orchestral, tuning in 5ths, etc) is acceptable. Final Round contestants will perform for 40-50 minutes and choose music from all 5 categories. The concerto, sonata, or Bach/Telemann movements (categories 1, 2, and 3) need not be the same ones in the Final Round as in the Semi-Final, but must be from the **same** concerto, sonata, or solo suite/sonata.

1. One movement of a concerto or other work conceived for performance with orchestra (performed in this competition with piano). This does not have to be the same as the concerto used in the preliminary recording, if applicable.
2. One movement of a sonata, either originally for bass or a transcription. This does not have to be the same as the sonata used in the preliminary recording, if applicable.
3. Two movements from a solo cello suite by J.S. Bach (at least one should be a dance movement), or the Solo Sonata by G.P. Telemann. This does not have to be the same as the solo piece used in the preliminary recording.
4. A piece of the performer's choice which would be classified as virtuosic (ie: pieces by Bottesini, Paganini, Glière, etc).
5. The required new work commissioned for the competition from Francois Rabbath – copies will be mailed to all semi-finalists simultaneously after the announcement of list of semi-finalists).

For the Semi-Final Round the performer is to choose 25-30 minutes of music from the list below but must include the required work (#5). Any tuning (ie: solo, orchestral, tuning in 5ths, etc) is acceptable. For the Final Round contestants will perform for 40-50 minutes and choose music from all 5 categories. The contestant may choose the order of works to be performed. The jury reserves the right to stop performers, without penalty, in order to hear all required categories in both the Semi-Final and Final Rounds. Semi-Finalists are encouraged to bring their own pianists; however if this is not possible, a one-hour rehearsal with a competition staff pianist will be scheduled prior to the Semi-Final Round. Additional rehearsal times will be at the performer's expense. Finalists will be given an additional one hour with the staff pianist. Contestants are responsible for supplying piano scores for any staff accompanist in advance of the first rehearsal. Performing by memory is not required for the competition, but is encouraged. Scoring factors for both the Semi-Final and Final Rounds will include, but are not limited to, stage presence, depth of performance (technically and musically) and depth and breadth of repertoire. Contestants should aim to present a quality program, as if presenting a recital.