

## ISB Double Bass Competition

Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

Indiana University

Bloomington, Indiana, USA

### 2019 Solo Division – Jeremy Kurtz-Harris, Chair

#### Prizes

- First place \$2,500, a double bass bow, and an expenses-paid recital at the 2021 ISB convention
- Second place \$1,000
- Third place \$750

#### Eligibility:

- The competition is open to bassists who are aged at least 19 and have not yet reached the age of 31 on the first day of the competition (June 3, 2019).
- Applicants must be current ISB members at the time of online application. If you are not a current member you can join at <https://www.isbworldoffice.com/join.asp>
- Applicants must not have previously won first prize in the ISB Double Bass Competition Solo Division.
- Any tuning is acceptable.
- **Deadline** for submitting an online application for the Solo Division preliminary round is **January 15, 2019. *Link to online application to follow.***

The competition will begin June 3, 2019 on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. Finals for the solo division will be held June 4th, with an announcement of winners that evening.

**Dress code:** Formal attire is not required. Candidates should dress neatly (appropriate for a masterclass setting) but comfortably.

**Memorization:** For the Semi-Final and Final rounds, the required concerto movement (category 1), and the two movements from the suites for cello by J.S. Bach (Category 3) must be performed by memory. Performing by memory is not required for the other categories, but is encouraged.

**Performance Order:** Contestants will meet at 5:30 pm at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (room TBD) on June 2, 2019, to draw lots for the next day's performance order.

**Accompanists:** Semi-finalists are encouraged to bring their own pianists. If this is not possible, the ISB will assign a staff pianist at the semi-finalist's expense (\$65 per hour for

rehearsals and competition rounds, paid directly to his/her pianist. Semi-finalists planning to use a staff pianist should make plans to arrive in Bloomington, Indiana by **June 2, 2019** or earlier for rehearsal. Solo Division semi-finalists are responsible for providing piano parts in the correct tuning and the list of repertoire they plan to play for the Semi-Final and Final rounds to the ISB immediately after notification of advancing to the semi-final round.

**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.

### **Preliminary Round Rules:**

Applicants for the Solo Division are required to submit Preliminary Round high-quality digital recordings:

- A separate audio file (no video) for each preliminary round piece, identified by the name of the piece and not including the competitor's name
- Each track must be recorded in a single take, with no edits or digital processing.
- MP3 files preferred
- Either "live" or "studio" recordings

Applicants will also be asked for a list of their preliminary round repertoire, and a list of their current and past teachers as part of the Accepted online application.

### **Preliminary Round Repertoire:**

Recordings will include 20-30 minutes of music from the following categories:

1. A movement of a concerto or sonata, with piano accompaniment.
2. A movement from a solo cello suite by J.S. Bach.
3. A piece of the performer's own choice.

### **Rules for the Semi-Final Round:**

Applicants advancing to the in-person Semi-Final and Final Rounds, which will take place on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA, will be notified **by February 15, 2019**. Semi-finalists will be offered a discounted registration rate to attend the 2019 ISB convention that follows the competition, June 3-8, 2019 at Indiana University.

The Semi-Final Round will consist of 25-30 minutes of music from the list below, and must include the required work (#5). Contestants will perform anonymously behind a screen for the Semi-Final round.

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, including at least one dance movement. This does not have to be the same movement used in the preliminary recording.
4. A piece of the performer's choice for unaccompanied bass or bass and piano. Since the judging will be done behind a screen, pieces that require the performer to use his/her voice are not permissible.
5. The required new work by Samuel Suggs (copies will be mailed to all semi-finalists simultaneously after the announcement of list of semi-finalists).
6. 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.

### **Rules for the Final Round**

Final Round contestants will perform for 40-50 minutes and choose music from all five categories. 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.

**Winners will be announced Tuesday evening, June 4th immediately prior to the evening concerts.**