



2025 ISB Double Bass Competition

To be held at the Florida State University College of Music
Tallahassee, Florida USA

Age 14 and Under Division – Tracy Rowell, Chair

Monday, June 2, 2025

Winners will be announced the evening of June 2, 2025 in a ceremony preceding the evening concert.

PRIZES:

- First place \$500
- Second place \$250
- Third place \$100

ELIGIBILITY:

- The competition is open to bassists who have not reached age 15 by the day of the competition.
- Contestants 10 and under may enter the 14 and Under Competition or the 10 and Under Competition, but not both.
- Applicants must be current ISB members at the time of online application for the competition. If you are not a current member you can join at <https://www.isbworldoffice.com/join.asp>. If you are unable to join with a credit card, contact office@isbworldoffice.com for instructions.
- Applicants must not have previously won first prize in the ISB Double Bass Competition Age 14 and Under Division. Previous first place winners of the Age 14 and Under Competition who have not reached age 15 by the next competition may compete in the Age 15-18 Division.
- Any tuning is acceptable.

DEADLINE:

Must submit online application by 11:59 PM Central Time, March 15, 2025 for the Preliminary Round.

DRESS CODE:

Formal attire is not required. Candidates should dress neatly (appropriate for a masterclass setting) and comfortably.

MEMORIZATION:

Free choice piece(s) must be performed from memory.

ACCOMPANISTS:

- Contestants are encouraged to bring their own pianists. If this is not possible, the ISB will assign a staff pianist at the contestant's expense (\$75 per hour for rehearsals and competition rounds, paid directly to the pianist).
- Contestants using a staff pianist should make plans to arrive in Tallahassee, Florida USA by the morning of Sunday, June 1, 2025 or earlier for rehearsal.
- Contestants are responsible for providing piano parts in the correct tuning and the list of repertoire they plan to play for the competition. **Contestants planning to use a staff pianist should send piano parts to the ISB office by May 1, 2025.**

FIRST ROUND RULES & REPERTOIRE:

Repertoire

1). **Choose one** of the following Classical works, either:

- Sonata T40, Movement 2 (Adagio), by Johann Matthias Sperger, or
- Concerto #2, Movement 2 (No Cadenza), by Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf

2). **Choose one** of the following works, either:

- Sonatina for Double Bass and Piano, by Paul Breuer (Breitkopf & Hartel), or
- Novelette, by JP Waud (Yorke Edition, Yorke Solos Vol. 1)

3). **You have one or more free choices.** A complete piece is encouraged, rather than an extract of a longer piece. Works by under-represented composers are encouraged but not required. This list is not intended to be comprehensive but to provide a few examples and some resources:

- Beach, Amy. *Romance*, transcribed for bass and piano. Several editions available, such as the versions by Alexander Verster, Nina DeCesare, and David Heyes.
- Brown, Lawrence, 5 Negro Spirituals. Available from the Sphinx organization as a free download. <https://www.sphinxmusic.org/locating-sheet-music/>
- Foley, Xavier. <https://xavierfoley.com/collections/individual-sheet-music>
- Martin, Andres. "Two small works for young players" www.andresmartin.net
- Montgomery, Lourdes, several compositions for bass are available at <https://shop.doublebasshq.com/collections/lourdes-montgomery>
- Price, Florence, *Adoration*, edited by Cathy Elliot at <https://www.bartholomewmusic.co.uk/product/adoration/>
- [An annotated catalog of works by women composers for the double bass](#)
- <https://www.sphinxmusic.org/composers-and-repertoire>

Rules and Procedures

- There will be no preliminary round screening recording for this division.
- Applicants will enter using the Acceptd platform. Entry fee is \$60.

- Applicants must submit a list of their preliminary round repertoire, and a resume with the online application that includes a chronological list of all private teachers, education, honors and awards.
- The performance order for Age 14 and Under Division contestants will be determined randomly. **Contestants will be notified of their performance order by May 2, 2025.**

Stage time, including entering and exiting, should not exceed 15 minutes. Contestants will enter the stage and tune, then play the required works first. Next, they will play another piece or pieces of their choice. For free choice repertoire, judges will take into consideration such factors as level of difficulty, diversity of musical styles, and appropriateness of the works presented. Complete works, to fit into the 15 minutes time limit, are encouraged, rather than extracts of longer works. The jury reserves the right to stop performers, without penalty, in order to hear all repertoire. Contestants will be stopped if they exceed the time limit, but no points will be deducted.

FINAL ROUND

If a Final Round is called, finalists will play the same repertoire as in the first round.