



ISB Double Bass Competition

To be held on the University of New Mexico campus
Albuquerque, NM USA

2027 Youth Orchestral Division – Sean Casey, Chair

Monday, June 7, 2027

Winners announced evening of June 7, 2025 in a ceremony preceding evening concerts

PRIZES:

- First place is \$2500
- Second place is \$1000
- Third place is \$500

ELIGIBILITY:

- The competition is open to bassists who are aged at least 15 and have not yet reached the age of 19 on the first day of the competition (June 7, 2027).
- 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>. If you are unable to join with a credit card, contact office@isbworldoffice.com for instructions.
- Must not be or have previously been a member of an ICSOM member orchestra. International applicants must not have previously held a full-time position with a symphony orchestra, radio orchestra, or an opera company. Additionally, applicants may not be members of an ICSOM member orchestra, or hold a full-time position with a symphony orchestra, radio orchestra, or an opera company at the time of the semi-final round of the competition.
- Competitors must play in orchestra tuning for all rounds of the competition.
- Applicants must not have previously won first prize in the ISB Double Bass Competition Youth Orchestral Division (Age 15-18). Previous first place winners of the Youth Orchestral Competition who have not reached age 19 by the next competition may compete in the age 19-30 Orchestral Division.

DEADLINE:

Must submit online application by 11:59 PM Central Time, Friday, January 15th, 2027 for the Preliminary Round.

PRELIMINARY ROUND RULES:

Preliminary Round repertoire -

- First movement of one of the following classical concertos: the Dittersdorf Concerto in D Major, the Van Hal Concerto in C or D Major (orchestra tuning required), or the Capuzzi Concerto (any key, orchestra tuning required); no cadenza required
- Bach: Orchestral Suite No. 2, Double, entire, with repeats
- Beethoven: Symphony No. 7, 1st movement, mms. 89-112

- Mahler: Symphony No. 2, 1st movement, mm. 1- downbeat of 25 [Beginning to Rehearsal 1]
- Mozart: Symphony No. 35, 1st movement, mms. 13-66

Applicants for the Youth Orchestral Division are required to submit required preliminary round high-quality digital audio recordings using the Acceptrd platform. Entry fee is \$60.

- 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.
- Record each audio file individually in a single take, with no edits or digital processing.
- MP4 files are preferred, MP3s will be accepted as well.
- Either "live" or "studio" recordings are acceptable. Please remove any time stamp.
- Applicants will also be asked to submit a list of their preliminary round repertoire and must also submit a resume with the online application that includes:
 - a chronological list of all private teachers
 - education
 - honors and awards

SEMI-FINAL & FINAL ROUND RULES:

Contestants must choose from the following solos for the SEMI-FINAL/FINAL round:

The first movement of EITHER the Koussevitsky Concerto OR the Bottesini Concerto No. 2 in B minor;

OR one movement from Bach Cello Suite No. 1, 2, or 3. If a student chooses a Bach Cello Suite movement then they will not need to prepare a romantic concerto movement for these rounds; if a student chooses a romantic concerto movement then they will not need to prepare a movement of Bach.

Orchestral excerpt repertoire for SEMI-FINAL and FINAL rounds will be selected by the judges from the following:

- Beethoven: Symphony No. 3, 3rd movement, mm. 73 - 127
- Beethoven: Symphony No. 9, 4th movement, Recitatives and Theme, mms. 8 - 107
- Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique, 5th movement, pickup to Rehearsal R [m. 241] to Rehearsal Y [m.305]
- Brahms: Symphony No. 2, 1st movement, mms. 233-250
- Dvorak: Carnival Overture, Rehearsal C to 14 before Rehearsal D
- Haydn: Symphony No. 94 "Surprise," mm. 57 - 70
- Mahler: Symphony No. 2, 1st movement, beginning to Rehearsal 1 [m. 25]
- Mozart: Symphony No. 39, 1st movement, mms. 40 - 97
- Mozart: Symphony No. 39, 1st movement, mms. 13 – 20
- Smetana: The Moldau, mms. 271-321 [Rehearsal H to Rehearsal K]
- Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4, 1st movement, Rehearsal P to 10 after Rehearsal Q
- Tchaikovsky; Symphony No. 4, 4th movement, Rehearsal A to 7 before B

Five excerpts will be selected in the SEMI-FINAL, and five additional excerpts will be selected in the FINAL round; excerpts from the SEMI-FINAL will not be chosen in the FINAL. The concerto movement or Bach movement can be asked for in either round, but not both.

- Applicants advancing to the in-person semi-final round will be notified by February 15, 2027.
- Semi-Final and Final rounds will be held behind a screen.
- Semi-Finalists will be offered a discounted registration rate to attend the 2025 ISB Convention that follows the competition, June 7-12, 2027 at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM USA.
- Formal attire is not required. Contestants should dress neatly (appropriate for a masterclass setting) but comfortably.
- The performance order for semi-finalists and finalists will be determined randomly. Contestants will be notified of their performance order for the semi-final round by May 7, 2027. Results of the Semi-Finals will be announced after the lunch break; contestants should return around 1pm to see who advanced to the Finals. Final Round performance order will be determined after the semi-final round on June 7, 2027.