



Arizona Musicfest

PIANO COMPETITION RULES - 2023

Competition Dates: November 18 & 19, 2023

APPLICATIONS:

- Application Due Date: **October 23, 2023** (azmusicfest.org/events/piano-competition)
- Application Fee: \$25
- Performers must be Arizona residents.
- Performers must be in grades seven through twelve.
- Early submission is advised. It is possible that all available slots for performers will be filled before the end of the application submission period. Any performers who apply within the submission period for whom there is no slot will be placed on a waiting list. If no slot becomes available, the performer will be informed, and entry fee returned.
- No application refunds will be given in the event of performer withdrawal.

DATES & TIMES:

- The Competition will be held on **Saturday, November 18** and **Sunday, November 19**.
 - The times in the table below are the estimated window for each division. Please reserve the entire duration of your division's window until you receive your exact timeslot.
 - Divisions may begin earlier or later depending on the number of entrants.
- Performers will be notified of their exact timeslot by **October 27, 2023**.
 - Performers may perform only during their division's window.
- Performers will be assigned an arrival time that is roughly 15 minutes before their scheduled warm-up time.

Division	Date	Estimated Window <i>(Exact timeslots to be assigned)</i>
I (Grades 7 & 8)	Saturday, November 18, 2023	9am-1pm
II (Grades 8 & 9)	Saturday November 18, 2023	1pm-5pm
III (Grades 11 & 12)	Sunday, November 19, 2023	1pm-5pm

DIVISIONS:

- Divisions are determined by grade level.
 - Each division has different requirements regarding the number of pieces to perform and the amount of time in which they perform.
 - Division III has a longer warm-up duration than Divisions I & II.

Division	Number of Pieces	Warm-up Duration	Performance Duration
I (Grades 7 & 8)	1 or 2	10 minutes	7 minutes
II (Grades 9 & 10)	1 or 2	10 minutes	10 minutes
III (Grades 11 & 12)	2	15 minutes	15 minutes



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LOCATION:

- The competition will be held at **Arizona Musicfest**: 7950 E Thompson Peak Pkwy. Scottsdale, AZ 85255.
- Competition instruments:
 - **Performance Space**: 2001 Steinway Model B Grand Piano
 - **Warm Up Room**: Roland RD-300 Stage Piano

MUSIC

- Music must be standard solo literature from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern, or Contemporary periods.
 - Arizona Musicfest does not provide a list of required or recommended repertoire.
 - Simplified versions & transcriptions are not accepted.
 - Multiple movements from a work may be entered as one selection, so long as the total program does not exceed the allotted time for the respective division (see above).
- **Music must be memorized.**
- Performers must provide **three total copies** of their score(s): a published version and two photocopies.
 - Scores should not have markings that would indicate the performer or teacher's identities.
 - Score(s) must have measures numbered and cuts marked (if any) so the judges can use them as a reference during the performance.
 - If your music is in the public domain, the score should be clearly marked "Public Domain" or a cover sheet indicating that should be included.
 - Scores will be checked at the Welcome Table for the above requirements and will be returned directly after the performance.

PRIZES:

- Standout Performers from each Division may be awarded monetary prizes in the amounts detailed below.
- Awarded performers may be invited to perform in the Young Musicians Concert Series in the MIM Music Theater.
- Awarded Performers may receive additional performance opportunities as they become available.

Division	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
I (Grades 7 & 8)	\$200	\$100	\$50
II (Grades 9 & 10)	\$350	\$200	\$100
III (Grades 11 & 12)	\$450	\$350	\$200

ADJUDICATION:

1. Judges: Dr. Stephen Cook, Cameron Grant, and Dr. Cathal Breslin (see below)
2. Judges will stop performers if their performance exceeds the competition time limits. There is no penalty if a performer is stopped for this reason.
3. Judges may elect to award 'Excellent' and 'Superior' ratings to students demonstrating high levels of artistry in their performances. Ratings will only be awarded with unanimous recommendation from the committee.



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4. Prizes are awarded at the end of each division to performers who display the highest level of artistic excellence.
 5. Judges have the option to withhold prizes; their decisions are final.
 6. All teachers will receive Judges' comments within a week of the competition date.
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JUDGE BIOGRAPHIES:

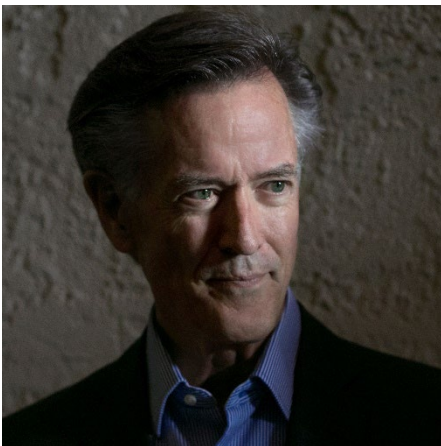


Dr. Cathal Breslin

Cathal Breslin has been praised worldwide as one of the most exciting pianists of his generation with critical acclaim such as “superb intensity and passion” (Cleveland Plain Dealer, Ohio), “energized and energizing” (Belfast Telegraph, N. Ireland), “a deep connection to the music” (Tampa Oracle, Florida), and “noble poetry...perfumed pianissimo (The Independent, London). Born in Derry, Northern Ireland, he has performed solo recitals in major concert halls throughout Europe, U.S., and Asia, such as Carnegie Hall in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, Kumho Hall in Seoul, and the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing.

He moved to the U.S. as an Ireland-U.S. Fulbright Scholar, where he received a DMA Degree from the University of Michigan, studying with Arthur Greene. His earlier studies were from the Royal College of Music in London, the Royal

Northern College of Music in Manchester, the Real Conservatorio Superior in Madrid, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin. Cathal is currently an Assistant Professor of Piano at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. In 2020, he signed as an exclusive Yamaha Artist, and released a new album entitled “Mirage” – an album of Romantic piano works that create musical illusions of landscapes and fantasies, reflecting light and color.



Cameron Grant

Cameron Grant recently retired after 37 years with the New York City Ballet. As a solo pianist, he performed a vast repertoire for solo piano including the Bach Goldberg Variations, Pictures at an Exhibition, Dances at a Gathering, Polyphonia, In the Night, and numerous other solo premieres. The concerti he has performed include works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Hindemith, Dohnanyi, Prokofiev, Bartók, MacMillan, Ravel, and Gershwin. He toured with the company across the globe in theaters in St. Petersburg, Athens, Edinburgh, Paris, London, Parma, Taipei, Tokyo, and Seoul and has appeared in festivals in New Hampshire, Vail, and Nantucket. A renowned collaborative pianist, Cameron has worked and/or recorded with Joel Korsnick, Ronald Thomas, Hiroko Yakima, The Leonardo Trio with Erica Kieswetter and Jonathan Spitz, and Zina Schiff, among others. He spent five years touring with James Winn as half of the Grant-Winn piano duo, a duo that took top honors at the Munich Competition. Cameron was

also a member of the New York New Music Ensemble. In 2004, he won an Emmy Award as a soloist in the Live From Lincoln Center broadcast, "Balanchine at 100," and was invited to perform at the Kennedy Center Honors with three other members of the New York City Ballet for President Bush .



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Dr. Stephen Cook

Stephen Cook has dedicated his life to building culture through musical performance, education, and nonprofit leadership. Cook studied under luminary pianists Ursula Oppens, Robert Hamilton, and Eteri Andjaparidze, at DePaul University, Northwestern University, and Arizona State University where he earned his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree. A visionary pianist, Dr. Cook expands the traditional piano recital format with distinctive elements of artistic fusion. His innovative performance projects harmoniously merge music with visual arts, literature and film. Dedicated to cultural development, Dr. Cook founded Oracle Piano Society in 2012. As the organization's Artistic Director, he has brought together an impressive Artist Advisory Committee, empowered a passionate Board of Directors, and inspired an outpouring of local support.

Questions? Email competition@azmusicfest.org