



# The 26<sup>th</sup> United States International Music Competition

**ABOUT:** The **United States International Music Competition** is organized by the United States International Music Foundation affiliated with the Chinese Music Teachers' Association of Northern California, a non-profit organization. This competition provides young musicians with an opportunity to exhibit their talents and reward their hard work, as well as to encourage them to appreciate music cross-culturally.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Contestants of all nationalities, No Age Limit. Past First Place winners may not compete in an age group that they have won previously. However, they may elect to compete in another age-appropriate group.

**INSTRUMENT CATEGORIES:** Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Chamber Ensembles, Vocal (solo and ensembles) and Traditional Chinese Instruments categories are held annually. Marimba and woodwind instruments are also included in the 2019 competition categories.

**AGE GROUPS:** Eligibility for each group will be determined by the contestant's age as of **June 1, 2019** (application deadline). Each instrument category has different age groups.

Category & Age groups	Piano	Violin	Viola	Cello	Vocal
<b>A</b>	Age 9 or under	Age 8 or under	Age 14 or under	Age 11 or under	Age 9 or under
<b>B</b>	Age 11 or under	Age 13 or under	Age 18 or under	Age 14 or under	Age 12 or under
<b>C</b>	Age 14 or under	Age 18 or under	Age 19 or above	Age 18 or under	Age 14 or under
<b>D</b>	Age 18 or under	Age 19 or above		Age 19 or above	Age 18 or under
<b>E</b>	Age 19 or above				Age 19 or above
Category & Age groups	Marimba	Woodwinds	Piano Duet (4 Hands)	Chamber Music	Vocal Ensemble
<b>A</b>	Age 11 or under	Age 12 or under	Age 12 or under	*Age 12 or under	*Age 12 or under
<b>B</b>	Age 14 or under	Age 14 or under	Age 18 or under	*Age 18 or under	*Age 18 or under
<b>C</b>	Age 18 or under	Age 18 or under	Age 19 or above	*Age 19 or above	*Age 19 or above
<b>D</b>	Age 19 or above	Age 19 or above	*Ensemble group is determined by the oldest contestant in the group		

Traditional Chinese Instruments	
Category & Age groups	Plucked String
<b>A</b>	Age 14 or under
<b>B</b>	Age 18 or under
<b>C</b>	Age 19 or above

## Final competition (Live Round)

- **Date: Saturday & Sunday, August 17-18, 2019**
- **Location: First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, CA**
- Competition winners will be announced when the result is finalized

## The Winners' Recitals and Award Ceremonies

- **Date: Sunday, August 25, 2019**

## THREE AWARD CATEGORIES:

### I. YOUNG ARTIST AWARDS:

- **Preliminary video round: due on June 1, 2019.**
- **Winners from each instrumental group will be awarded the following:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: USD \$300, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: USD \$150, Certificate
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: USD \$100, Certificate
  - Honorable Places: Certificate
  - All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition

### II. CHINESE MUSIC AWARD:

- The purpose of the **Chinese Music Award** is to promote Chinese Music and culture.
- The **Chinese Music Award** is only for solo instruments, not open to instrumental ensembles.
- Contestants can **exclusively** compete in this individual category, which is organized into the same instrument or vocal age groups.
- Please note that the Chinese music piece does **not require preliminary video submission**. The competition for the **Chinese Music Award** will take place on the same days as the final round.
- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time is limited to 6 minutes.
- Application fee is charged separately for this category.
- Contestants in the Traditional Chinese Instruments and Classical Chamber Music categories are **not** eligible to participate in the **Chinese Music Award**.
- **AWARDS:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: USD \$150, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Certificate
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Certificate
  - All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition
- **J & V Foundation & CMTANC Commissioning Project Award**
  - If the contestant selects the composition from the *J & V Foundation & CMTANC Commissioning Project* and wins First Place, the J & V Foundation will reward USD \$150 scholarship in addition to the Chinese Music Award.
  - These compositions includes: **FANTASY AMOUR** for piano, **FLOATING CLOUDS** for violin, **AMIS' FEAST** for violin, **FLOATING CLOUDS** for cello, **DANCE TO THE MOON** for cello and music for violin, cello, and marimba are composed by Hao-Yuan Chiu.
  - To request the music, please email: [commissionproject@cmtanc.org](mailto:commissionproject@cmtanc.org).

### III. SPECIAL THEME AWARD - Johann Sebastian Bach:

- The purpose of the **Special Theme Award** is to promote specific western composers. The theme may vary yearly.
- The **Special Theme Award** is only for solo instruments, not open to instrumental ensembles.
- Contestants can **exclusively** compete in this individual category, which is organized into the same instrument or vocal age groups.
- Please note that the Special Theme Award does not require preliminary video submission. The competition for the **Special Theme Award** will take place on the same days as the final round.
- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time is limited to 6 minutes.
- Application fee is charged separately for this category.
- **AWARDS:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: USD \$150, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Certificate
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Certificate
  - All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition.

## COMPETITION PROCEDURE:

- Preliminary Video Round (Young Artist Awards only): Contestants will be evaluated in the preliminary round based on two performance video clips. The two submitted clips must be selected from the listed repertoire below. Each piece is required to be performed in its entirety in the video submission—with cadenza if applicable. No piece may be entered more than once in the competition.
- Uploaded preliminary videos: Video clips must be recorded from one, single camera angle and must have good lighting/visibility of the performer. Editing is not permitted. The two separate video clips shall be uploaded on **YouTube.com** or **YouKu.com**.

- Deadline: By **June 1, 2019**.
- Finalists will be posted on [www.usimc.org](http://www.usimc.org) by **July 1, 2019**.
- Final Round instructions for finalists will be notified by email.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Online registration for USIMC begins on **April 1, 2019** on [www.usimc.org](http://www.usimc.org).

The registration deadline is **June 1, 2019**.

1. Submit Proof of age (photocopy of driver's license, passport or birth certificate) online.
2. Application Fee: **Young Artist Award categories, Special Theme Award or Chinese Music Award:** (USD)
  - \$80.00 per contestant, per category (students of Active CMTANC members)
  - \$110.00 per contestant, per category (students of Non-CMTANC members)
  - \$130.00 per international contestant, per category

#### **Chamber Ensemble or Vocal Ensemble:**

- \$50 per contestant (coached by Active CMTANC members)
- \$60 per contestant (coached by Non-CMTANC members)
- \$70 per international contestant

3. All contestants pay application fee ONLINE ONLY via the registration system. All fees are non-refundable. \$45 will be charged if application has missing documents.
  - If contestant is entering more than one category, the total fees for all categories entered may be included in one transaction.
  - The two video links for the Young Artist Award Category must be provided in the Registration Form. Once the Application is submitted and the deadline is met, the music selections/titles cannot be changed.
  - Please visit [www.usimc.org](http://www.usimc.org) for more information. For questions, contact us by email: [info@usimc.org](mailto:info@usimc.org) or +1(408) 681-9928

### **REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENT:**

#### **PIANO/VIOLIN/VIOLA/CELLO/WOODWINDS:**

- Contestants must select two original and contrasting pieces from different music periods. One of the two pieces must be from either the Baroque or the Classical period.
- No simplified music allowed.
- No editing or cut allowed.
- Selections of music remain the same for both Preliminary and Final rounds.
- Time limit of the 2 selections of music:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Piano</b>	<b>Violin</b>	<b>Viola</b>	<b>Cello</b>	<b>Woodwinds</b>
<b>A</b>	8 minutes	8 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	6 minutes
<b>B</b>	10 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	12 minutes	8 minutes
<b>C</b>	12 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	10 minutes
<b>D</b>	15 minutes	15 minutes		15 minutes	15 minutes
<b>E</b>	15 minutes				

#### **Chamber Music:**

- The chosen music length shall not exceed **12 minutes**.
- No memorization required.
- Maximum 6 people in each group.

#### **VOCAL: including solo and ensemble categories.**

**Vocal ensemble:** Maximum 6 people in each group.

1. Contestants must enter two selections.
  - There are no restrictions on language or style. The content should be appropriate and family friendly.
  - Total time for both selections should not exceed **6 minutes**; both should be performed from memory.
  - The two selections for the final round must be the same as the two selections entered in the Preliminary Round.

- Accompaniment is optional in the Preliminary Round.

**2. Final round:**

- Accompaniment is mandatory unless the song is acapella.
- No restrictions on the type of accompaniment, contestants may bring CD accompaniment.
- If a piano accompaniment needed, contestant can choose either an accompanist from USIMC's approved list or self-accompaniment.

**MARIMBA:**

- Contestants must select two original and contrasting pieces from different music periods. One of the two pieces must be from either the Baroque or the Classical period.
- NO simplified music allowed; and NO editing or cut allowed.
- Selections of music **remain the same** for both Preliminary and Final rounds.
- **Time limit of the 2 selections of music: A. 6mins B. 8mins C. 10mins D. 15mins**

**TRADITIONAL CHINESE INSTRUMENTS (SOLO ONLY):**

- Contestant's two contesting pieces must be from different musical style with one piece required to be from traditional Chinese music.
- Time limit of the 2 selections of music:

<b>Group A</b>	12 minutes
<b>Group B/C</b>	15 minutes

**RULES:**

1. At the competition's discretion, a Category/Group with less than 5 registered contestants may be cancelled or combined with other Categories/Groups.
2. Past First Place winners cannot register again for the same group of that instrumental category.
3. No accompaniment is permitted for all instruments except vocals in the Preliminary Round (in the two video clips uploaded to YouTube.com or YouKu.com).
4. **Providing the original purchased music is mandatory.** Contestants are required to bring the non-photocopied music. If the music is purchased from online databases, please print and attach your online or emailed purchase receipt to the final competition, with the exception of the Chinese pieces.
5. **No** simplified or edited music can be used for competition in all categories.
6. Contestants may register for multiple instrumental categories.
7. No changes in repertoire are allowed after the deadline, June 1, 2019.
8. In the Final Round, all repertoires must be performed from memory and complete. Repeats are not necessary.
9. Due to the time limitation, the judges reserve the right to stop or interrupt the contestant during the final audition. This will not affect the result.
10. All Finalists need to use official accompanists appointed by Competition Committee.
11. The winners will be chosen from the finalists in each group. However, if none of the finalists meet the standard, the judges reserve the right to declare no winners.
12. All judges' decisions are final. Contestants - Parents/guardians cannot appeal the final decision of the judges. If any contact with the judges is discovered, the contestants or winners will be disqualified.
13. No comments will be provided.
14. In the event of a tie, each winner will receive a trophy and share the scholarship.
15. The judges will decide the Winners Recital Program.
16. The awards may be claimed in the Winners' Recitals. An additional mailing and handling charge (\$45 domestic in the US; \$60 international) will apply to all mailing request after the Winners' Recitals.
17. Each contestant hereby gives USIMC and CMTANC permission to record, use, duplicate, distribute, and/or modify creatively, derivative works for public display of the contestant's performance in the audition and competition.
18. Subject to the limitations by applicable laws and regulations, each contestant waives any and all claims or actions against USIMC-CMTANC, CMTANC and its judges, staffs, officers, directors and volunteers that have arisen and/or may arise from Competitor's participation in the audition and competition.