



**The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition**  
**Senior Division Official Rule Book & Entry Instructions ©**

**May 20, 21, 22, 2022**  
**University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana**

**COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement:** Ensemble members accepted to advance to the live rounds must be fully vaccinated for the safety of those attending the Fischhoff Competition and for the surrounding community. Proof of vaccination will be required prior to arrival in South Bend.

**Entry**

Complete entries (forms, repertoire information, proofs of age, video links & online payment) must be emailed to [miki@fischhoff.org](mailto:miki@fischhoff.org) and **RECEIVED by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, March 2, 2022.** *Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.* All entries will be submitted electronically.

Organizations sending more than one entry are asked to submit a separate email for each entry.

Questions regarding the entry process should be directed to the Fischhoff office well before the deadline: [miki@fischhoff.org](mailto:miki@fischhoff.org)

The Senior Division will be divided into two categories: Wind and String. Mixed ensembles will be assigned by Fischhoff staff to the division in which there is a majority of instruments. Pianos will be considered a string instrument. Percussion will be considered a wind instrument.

Ensembles will receive email notification of results by the end of March.

**Eligibility**

The Fischhoff Competition is open to U.S. *and* non-U.S. residents. The competition is open to instrumental ensembles only.

Ensembles will consist of 3 to 6 musicians. The Fischhoff Competition is unable to accommodate ensembles that have more than one piano, or are vocal in nature, or require more than three minutes set-up and tear-down time.

All members of the ensemble must perform on separate instruments throughout the competition, but can use various instruments. Ensembles that perform repertoire with varied instrumentation must select works that use all members of the ensemble for all competition repertoire.

Individuals may not enter or compete in more than one ensemble, including the video round.

**Changes in personnel will NOT be allowed once the entry is received.**

**Age Requirement**

Senior Division ensemble members must not be more than age 35 on May 22, 2022. The average age of ensemble members must not exceed 30 years on May 22, 2022. (The ensemble's age must average less than 31 years old).

Senior Division ensembles may include members who are age 18 or younger.

### **Previous Grand Prize Winners**

Senior ensembles may not include any individual who has previously won the Grand Prize in the Senior Division. Gold medalists are eligible to return.

### **NEW Senior Division Prize Announced:**

Fischoff is pleased to announce its inaugural ***Lift Every Voice Prize*** for the best performance of a work by a historically underrepresented composer within the chamber music world. For this inaugural prize we are focusing on works by Black and/or Hispanic/Latino/a composers. (Future years may highlight additional underrepresented groups).

**Senior Division ensembles interested in competing for this prize will include with their application a designated video featuring a complete work by a Black and/or Hispanic/Latino/a composer.** The prize will be awarded based on application videos.

Senior Division ensembles *accepted into the live rounds* of the 2022 Fischoff Competition will have their designated *Lift Every Voice* video judged by a jury panel that is independent of the initial screening committee and the live round jurors.

Finalists will be judged solely on their video performances. The winning ensemble and runner-up will be notified in April (date TBD) and both ensembles will participate in a special soiree performance in South Bend on Friday evening, May 20. Additionally, the winning ensemble will perform on the Gold Medalist Concert on Sunday, May 22 and will receive a special cash award of \$1,500.

The *Lift Every Voice* videos of all participating ensembles will be featured on Fischoff's social media on Friday, May 20, as part of the Fischoff Competition *Lift Every Voice* Virtual Concert.

*Fischoff reserves the right to modify or cancel the soirees and/or prize, if deemed necessary.*

### **Senior Division Video Audition Requirements**

The video recording must include at least two *complete* works of contrasting STYLE and PERIOD and a ***minimum of 40 minutes*** of total playing time.

Ensembles whose repertoire is primarily from the 20th century to the present must clearly represent more than one style. **If repertoire choices are technically from different periods listed below, but composed within 15 years of each other, contact Fischoff well in advance for approval: [miki@fischoff.org](mailto:miki@fischoff.org)**

Transcriptions are permissible. Note: If transcribing a work of standard chamber music repertoire, *all movements* of that work must be transcribed and prepared. An example of this might be a standard string quartet transcribed for wind instruments.

For purposes of this competition, "works of contrasting style and period" should fit clearly into the following categories:

- 1770 and earlier (Baroque and earlier)**
- 1770-1810 (Classical)**
- 1811-1900 (Romantic)**
- 1900-1980 (Modern)**
- 1981-present (Contemporary)**

**Any questions regarding appropriate repertoire selections must be emailed to [miki@fischoff.org](mailto:miki@fischoff.org) well in advance of recording.** Official responses will be returned via email. The Fischoff Competition reserves the

right to make final decisions on these matters.

**All multi-movement works must be performed in their entirety on the video recording.** Failure to meet these requirements will result in disqualification. Recordings will frequently exceed 40 minutes. Repeats are optional.

Ensembles entering the Fischhoff *Lift Every Voice* competition may use their designated work by a Black and/or Hispanic/Latino/a composer as a component to meet the Fischhoff Competition video audition repertoire requirements, if desired.

Audition videos will be viewed by a screening panel to determine acceptance into the Live Rounds of the Competition. The panel will listen and watch for interpretation, ensemble sound and unity, technical accuracy, and overall performance effect. Their decisions are final and comments will not be available after the screening.

The audition video recording must be performed by the same players who would appear in the live performances in May.

**Detailed information on recording and submitting your video and entry materials will be available in late November.** Check [www.fischhoff.org](http://www.fischhoff.org) for updated information.

### **Competition Live Performance Rounds – May 20-22, 2022**

#### **Live Performance Repertoire Requirements**

Repertoire must include **at least two complete works of contrasting style and period, and a minimum of 60 minutes** total playing time. Ensembles are encouraged to include a work/works by historically underrepresented composers.

Parameters concerning appropriate repertoire and any questions concerning repertoire choices are the same as listed above for the video audition round.

All multi-movement works must be prepared in their entirety.

See above under **Senior Division Video Audition Requirements** for information on categories of styles and periods.

Works performed in the video audition round are not required to be included in the live performance repertoire.

Ensembles entering the Fischhoff *Lift Every Voice* competition may use their designated work by a Black and/or Hispanic/Latino/a composer as a component to meet the Fischhoff Competition live round repertoire requirements, if desired.

Jurors will select 17-20 minutes of music from the submitted repertoire list. Ensembles will be informed of the jury's selections upon entering the warm-up room.

#### **Quarterfinal & Semifinal Rounds**

A maximum of twelve ensembles from each senior division (Winds, Strings) will advance to the Quarterfinal Round in South Bend. Performance order will be determined by lot by the Fischhoff Association.

All senior division ensembles will perform on Friday, May 20, in the Quarterfinal Round. Semifinalists will be

announced on Friday night. A maximum of six ensembles from each senior division will advance to the Saturday morning Semifinal Round.

### **Final Round**

Finalists will be announced on Saturday evening, May 21. At least one member of each finalist ensemble must be present to attend a mandatory Finalist Meeting at the conclusion of the announcements. At this meeting, finalists will be required to make important decisions concerning their final round repertoire. Non-finalist ensembles will have an opportunity to speak with jurors following the announcements on Saturday evening.

Senior Division Finalists will include the top three ensembles in both senior division categories. Finals will be held on Sunday, May 22. Performance times will be determined prior to the Saturday evening Finalist Meeting.

### **Gold Medalist Concert**

The two Senior Division Gold Medal Winners will perform in a 4:00 p.m. (EST) concert on Sunday evening, May 22.

All senior division ensembles must be available to perform in the concert in order to be eligible for the Grand Prize.

### **Prizes & Tours**

In each Senior Division category (Wind and String), three medals and cash prizes will be awarded (cash amounts are per ensemble, not per member):

1st Prize and Gold Medal - \$3,500

2nd Prize and Silver Medal - \$3,000

3rd Prize and Bronze Medal - \$2,000

In addition, the Senior Division Gold Medalists will be awarded one of the following prizes:

Grand Prize - \$10,000 (\$13,500 total prize money)

Double Gold Tour Prize - \$3,500 (\$7,000 total prize money)

The **Grand Prize** includes a special medal and \$10,000 to be awarded in two \$5,000 increments after completion of tours of the Midwest (autumn 2022) and Italy (summer 2023).

The Grand Prize Winner is obligated to perform all concerts on the tour, which includes a trip to Italy in the summer of 2023 for several concerts at the Emilia Romagna Festival.

NOTE: Failure by the Grand Prize ensemble to perform the entire Tour may result in forfeiture of the Grand Prize, its medals and cash award. The Grand Prize may subsequently be awarded to the Gold Medalist in the corresponding senior division.

**The Fischhoff Double Gold Tour Prize:** Fischhoff will present a tour of the Midwest featuring the corresponding Senior Division Gold Medalist. This tour will include an additional cash prize of \$3,500 and will take place in autumn 2022.

### **Midwest Tour Dates**

Sr. Wind Division: *approximately* September 14-23, 2022.

Sr. String Division: *approximately* October 7-16, 2022.

Specific dates will be confirmed upon acceptance into the quarterfinal round. Please immediately contact Miki Strabley at [miki@fischhoff.org](mailto:miki@fischhoff.org) if you become aware of any possible date conflicts.

Gold Medalist ensembles will be expected to submit tour repertoire ranging from 60-90 minutes. Ensembles must guarantee that they will be able to meet the time requirements of tour presenters.

Fischoff will pay domestic travel, lodging and meal expenses for the Midwest tours. International travel expenses will be provided for travel to Italy. The Emilia Romagna Festival provides lodging and meals. *Fischoff reserves the right to cancel all, or part, of the Midwest and Italy tours and prizes, if deemed necessary.*

### **Additional Prizes**

The Fischoff **Lift Every Voice Prize** will award \$1,500 to a participating ensemble for the best performance of a work by a historically underrepresented composer within the chamber music world. See page 2 above for details.

The American Brass Quintet will award the **American Brass Quintet Brass Ensemble Prize** of \$400 to the top-ranked Senior Wind Division brass ensemble.

As part of the Double Gold Tour, the Senior String Division Gold Medalist will be awarded a **video recording in Guarneri Hall** in Chicago, sponsored by Darnton & Hersh Fine Violins.

### **Acceptance Materials & Scores**

Ensembles that are accepted to the quarterfinal round of the Competition will be required to complete and return additional forms provided at the time of notification. One set of scores in pdf format will also be required. Additional information will be provided upon acceptance into the competition. Please do not send scores with your entry materials.

### **Location/Travel/Lodging**

The Competition is held at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

All travel, lodging, and meal expenses are the responsibility of the ensemble. Information regarding a host hotel will be provided to quarterfinalist ensembles upon notification of acceptance.

### **Soirees**

Senior ensembles may have the option to participate in Fischoff soirees. Soirees are private or public performances for small community audiences. The purposes of soirees are: a) to provide ensembles with an opportunity to perform their repertoire before a live audience prior to the Competition; b) to increase local awareness of chamber music; and c) to increase support for the Fischoff National Chamber Music Association.

Soirees will take place on Thursday, May 19, and Friday, May 20. Ensembles performing soirees will have their entry fees reimbursed. A limited number of opportunities will be available. Ensembles should indicate their interest on page 2 of the entry form, which will be available in late November.

Participation in soirees is strictly on a volunteer basis and is completely separate from participation in the Competition.

Due to advance arrangements with soiree hosts, ensembles placed with soiree hosts will be obligated to perform.

Questions regarding Soirees should be directed to: Kara Kane, Executive Director: [kara@fischoff.org](mailto:kara@fischoff.org).

### **Entry Instructions**

The Entry Form and Entry Instructions will be available in late November at [www.fischoff.org](http://www.fischoff.org).

Any questions should be directed to Miki Strabley: [miki@fischoff.org](mailto:miki@fischoff.org).