



**The 50th Annual Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition
Senior Division Official Rule Book & Entry Instructions®
May 12-14, 2023
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana**

At the present time, there are no Covid requirements. Health guidelines could change, depending on current conditions.

Entry

Complete entries must be **RECEIVED by Wednesday, February 22 at 5:00 pm Eastern time.**

The entry form and instructions will be posted in early January.

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 Fischoff office well before the deadline:
miki@fischoff.org

The Senior Division will be divided into two categories: Wind and String.

Mixed ensembles will be assigned by Fischoff 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 Fischoff 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 Fischoff Competition is unable to accommodate ensembles that have more than one piano, or are vocal in nature, or require more than three minutes for set-up and tear-down.

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 14, 2023.

The average age of ensemble members must not exceed 30 years on May 14, 2023. (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.

Senior Division *Lift Every Voice* Prize

Every Senior Division ensemble that is *accepted into the live rounds* of the 2023 Fischhoff Competition will have their video performance of an underrepresented composer (see repertoire requirements below) entered into judging for the ***Lift Every Voice* Prize** for the best performance of a work by a historically underrepresented composer within the chamber music world.

Videos will be judged by a jury panel that is independent of the initial screening committee and the live round jurors. Two prize winners (one Senior Wind, one Senior String) will be notified in April (date TBD) and both ensembles will be asked to participate in a special soiree performance in South Bend on Thursday evening, May 11. Each prize winning ensemble will receive a \$1,500 cash award.

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

Senior Division Video Audition Requirements

Updated 10-25-22

NEW: All senior division ensembles must include **at least one complete work, or multiple complete works, of a minimum of 8 minutes in length**, by one of the following underrepresented communities:

Women, Black, Latino/a (heritage originates from Latin America) composers.

(Future years may highlight additional underrepresented groups.)

Multiple complete works by these featured groups may be used to reach the 8-minute minimum.

Videos will be used to enter the online audition for Fischhoff's ***Lift Every Voice* Prize** for the best performance of a work by a historically underrepresented composer within the chamber music world.

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 may use their designated work by an underrepresented composer to meet these requirements.

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)

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 Fischhoff well in advance for approval: miki@fischhoff.org**

All multi-movement chamber music works must be performed in their entirety on the video recording.

Transcriptions are permissible. 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.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in disqualification.

Recordings will frequently exceed 40 minutes.

Repeats are optional.

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

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 can be found below beginning on page 6. Entry forms will be available in January. Check www.fischoff.org for updated information.

Competition Live Performance Rounds – May 12-14, 2023

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, including **at least one complete work, or multiple complete works, of a minimum of 8 minutes in length**, by one of the following underrepresented communities:

Women, Black, Latino/a (heritage originates from Latin America) 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 chamber music 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.

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.

Any questions regarding appropriate repertoire selections **must be emailed** to 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.

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 Fischoff Association.

All senior division ensembles will perform on Friday, May 12, 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 13. 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. 3

Senior Division Finalists will include the top three ensembles in both senior division categories. Finals will be held on Sunday, May 14. 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 14. 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 - \$5,000

2nd Prize and Silver Medal - \$4,000

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

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

Grand Prize - \$15,000 (\$20,000 total prize money)

Double Gold Tour Prize - \$5,000 (\$10,000 total prize money)

The **Grand Prize** includes a special medal and \$15,000 to be awarded in two \$7,500 increments after completion of tours of the Midwest (autumn 2023) and Italy (summer 2024).

The Grand Prize Winner is obligated to perform all concerts on the tour, which includes a trip to Italy in the summer of 2024 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 \$5,000 and will take place in autumn 2023.

Midwest Tour Dates

Sr. Wind Division: *approximately* September 13-22, 2023.

Sr. String Division: *approximately* October 23 - November 1, 2023.

Specific dates will be confirmed upon acceptance into the quarterfinal round. Please immediately contact Miki Strabley at 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.

Fischhoff 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.

Fischhoff reserves the right to cancel all, or part, of the Midwest and Italy tours and prizes, if deemed necessary.

Additional Prizes

The Fischhoff **Lift Every Voice Prize** will award \$1,500 each to a Senior Wind ensemble and a Senior String ensemble for the best performance of a work by a historically underrepresented composer within the chamber music world. Winners will perform the works from their winning videos at a special Lift Every Voice soiree in South Bend on the evening of Thursday, May 11. See page 2 for requirements.

The American Brass Quintet will award the **American Brass Quintet Brass Ensemble Prize** of \$1,000 to the top-ranked Senior Wind Division brass ensemble.

The **Horszowski Trio Prize for Piano Trio** of \$600 will be awarded to the top-ranked trio consisting of piano, violin & cello. In addition to the cash prize, the winner will be invited to the Mimir Festival to work with the Horszowski Trio and other distinguished faculty members.

As part of the Double Gold Tour, the Senior String Division Gold Medalist will be awarded a **videorecording 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 submit their proofs of age, and complete and return additional forms provided at the time of notification. One set of scores in pdf format (1 pdf per movement) will also be required. Additional information will be provided upon acceptance into the competition. *Do not include 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 Fischhoff 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 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association.

Soirees will take place on Thursday, May 11, and Friday, May 12. Ensembles performing soirees will have their entry fees reimbursed. A limited number of opportunities will be available. Ensembles should indicate their interest on the entry form.

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: Scott Campbell, Executive Director: scott@fischhoff.org.

Entry Instructions

Entry Fees

Non-refundable entry fees will be accepted via credit card using the [PayPal link on Fischhoff's website](#).

\$125.00	Trio
\$165.00	Quartet
\$205.00	Quintet
\$245.00	Sextet

University, conservatory and music school checks *are* acceptable. Please contact Miki Strabley to make arrangements.

Video Recording Requirements

The audition recording must be submitted by emailing an unlisted YouTube link(s) to miki@fischhoff.org.

- A movement must be recorded in its entirety; however, breaks may be taken between movements.
- Videos may *not* be edited or spliced.
- All videos must be complete movements in one unedited take. Audio must be from the same take, but can be from an external microphone(s).
- Fischhoff highly recommends using an external microphone to sync with the video.
- The recording must include all ensemble members at all times.
- The picture should remain stationary without panning, fade-in/out, close-up techniques or use of multiple cameras.
- The ensemble should fill the screen as much as possible.
- Minimum video resolution is 1280x720 (720p).
- Do **not** embed any information into the video, including titles, ensemble names, individual names, or school affiliations.
- In the YouTube page description or title on each video, include the name of the work & the movement being played.
- Each movement must be submitted as a separate video link.
- Movements that are attacca may be submitted as one complete video but must include time stamps at the beginnings of each movement.

Other

- Concert attire is encouraged; however, ensembles will not be penalized if recording conditions do not allow for formal attire.
- Videos must show ensembles performing together in the same space. Mask wearing & distancing are acceptable.
- Do not delete your original video from your files after uploading it to YouTube in the event that Fischhoff may request it later on.


Video Identification

The **only identification on the video link should be a six-digit code *selected by the ensemble*** (e.g. 8675-30) and the name of the composer, work, movement.

For example:

8675-30 Ravel, String Quartet in F Major, Mvmt I

Do NOT include your ensemble, school or member names in the title of the video file or anywhere on YouTube.

The YouTube identification() may be the name of *one ensemble member* but may not be the name of the ensemble.

Schools and coaches should **not** use their own YouTube accounts.

If a third party is assisting with your video recording, make certain they are aware of the requirements above.

Submission Instructions & Checklist

A completed entry will include:

- PayPal Entry Fee Payment <https://www.fischoff.org/competition/compete/>
- Email with Ensemble Summary, Repertoire & Video links (separate links for each movement or one link to a single unlisted YouTube playlist) to miki@fischoff.org
- Entry Form <https://www.fischoff.org/competition/compete/> or see links below

Email Ensemble Summary, Repertoire & Video links to miki@fischoff.org

The email subject line must include your ensemble name (not 6-digit ID) & the division you are entering (Jr Wind, Jr String, Sr Wind, Sr String).

In the body of the email submit the following information:

- Ensemble Name
- Six-digit code (six numbers of your choosing)
- Ensemble Instrumentation (sax quartet, reed quintet, 2 saxes + piano, etc.)
- Contact Person Name, Email, Phone
- Repertoire & Video links for each movement
(It is also acceptable to send one link to a single unlisted YouTube playlist)

For each video recording list:

- Title & Composer & include composer year of birth/death & country of birth
- Movements with timings in minutes/seconds
- Total playing time for each work in minutes/seconds
- Indicate (*) which work/works will be considered for the Lift Every Voice Prize (Senior Divisions only)
- At the end of the entire program, list overall playing time in minutes/seconds.

Ensemble Entry Form

Complete the following for the appropriate division.

Junior Winds: <https://forms.gle/Cz29nK2xVFBruU13A>

Junior Strings: <https://forms.gle/hEhGzXEjqVmY8dbD9>

Senior Winds: <https://forms.gle/x47QpTXqzbomQgM66>

Senior Strings: <https://forms.gle/tjEeotqcnbkbGbf9>

Sample Entry Email

From: Miki Strabley [mailto:miki@fischoff.org]

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 4:17 PM

To: Miki Strabley <Miki@fischoff.org>

Subject: Quartet Staffacca, Sr. Wind Division

Hello Miki!

We submitted our entry fees via PayPal last week and we have submitted our online entry form. We are a quartet comprised of 2 trumpets, 1 sax & 1 piano.

Below is our 6-digit code along with our video links and repertoire information, including composer birth/death dates & countries of origin, movement timings & total timings.

Thank you! Good luck with entries!
~ Miki Strabley on behalf of Quartet Staffacca
miki@fischhoff.org, 574.631.0599

Six-digit code: #8675-30

*Work, Composer, year of birth/death, country of birth (*LEV)

I. movement name (timing) video link

II. movement name (timing) video link

III. movement name (timing) video link

(total time)

Work, Composer, year of birth/death, country of birth

I. movement name (timing) video link

II. movement name (timing) video link

III. movement name (timing) video link

(total time)

Work, Composer, year of birth/death, country of birth

I. movement name (timing) video link

II. movement name (timing) video link

III. movement name (timing) video link

(total time)

Total time: xxx

Any questions should be directed by email to Miki Strabley: miki@fischhoff.org.

Notifications

The contact person for each ensemble will receive an email acknowledgement when their entry is processed. Each ensemble's contact person will also be notified by of the screening panel's decision by email by late March. Please provide an accurate email address and check email frequently.

Proof of Age

Upon notification of **acceptance**, each ensemble member must provide proof of age. A *legible* photocopy of a driver's license, birth certificate, student identification with birthdate, or passport must be emailed. *Please combine all IDs into one pdf document.*

Complete entries must be RECEIVED by Wednesday, February 22 at 5:00 pm Eastern time.