



Competition Guidelines

2026 The 9th Sound of Piano, Strings, and Voice Music Festival

Festival Competition	2026 The 9th Sound of Piano, Strings, and Voice Music Festival Competition
Final Performance	Students' Finale Concert and Competition Performance
Date	August 8, 2026
Time	2:00PM or 7:00 PM
Venue	Xi'an Concert Hall

1. Overview

The 2026 9th The Sound of Piano, Strings, and Voice Music Festival Competition is an integral part of The Sound of Piano, Strings, and Voice Music Festival. The competition is designed to provide participating students with a professional performance platform, encourage artistic growth, and recognize outstanding young musicians during the festival.

Unlike a stand-alone competition, this event is closely connected with the festival's private lessons, masterclasses, chamber music training, seminars, and concert activities. Students will have the opportunity to refine their repertoire during the festival and present their final performance as part of the Students' Finale Concert.

The Students' Finale Concert on August 8, 2026 at 2:00 PM - 5 PM or 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM as schedule will serve simultaneously as the festival's public student concert and the official competition performance. Participants will not perform in a separate competition round, instead, the piece presented in the finale concert will also be evaluated by the jury for competition purposes.

2. Eligibility

The competition is open to accepted participants of the 2026 9th The Sound of Piano, Strings, and Voice Music Festival.

3. Instrument Categories

Competition categories may include:

- Piano
- Voice

4. Age Groups / Divisions

The festival committee may divide contestants into age or study-level groups, depending on the number of applicants.

Division	Description
----------	-------------



Piano Young Artist Division A	age 23 and above
Piano Young Artist Division B	ages 20–22
Piano Young Artist Division C	ages 17–19
Piano Junior Division	age 16 and under
Voice Young Artist Division	age 18 and above
Voice Junior Division	ages 15–17

The festival committee reserves the right to combine or adjust divisions if necessary.

5. Competition Format

The competition will be held as a live final performance during the festival.

Participants will prepare selected repertoire before arriving at the festival. During the festival week, students will continue to polish their competition repertoire through:

- Private lessons
- Masterclasses
- Rehearsals with accompanists, if applicable

6. Repertoire Requirements

Each contestant should prepare repertoire appropriate to their age, level, instrument, and artistic development.

For Piano

Participants may choose one of the following:

- One complete work
- One movement from a larger work
- A movement from a sonata, concerto, suite, or other standard repertoire

Recommended repertoire may include works from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist, 20th/21st-century, or contemporary classical periods.

Each performance must not exceed 12 minutes.

For Voice

Voice participants may choose one Song:

- Art songs
- Arias
- Musical theatre selections, if approved by the faculty/jury
- Repertoire in any language appropriate to the singer's age and vocal development



Each performance of one piece/song must not exceed 12 minutes.

7. Repertoire Study During the Festival

Because this competition is part of the music festival program, participants are expected to actively develop their competition repertoire throughout the festival.

Students may receive artistic guidance on:

- Interpretation and musical style
- Technical refinement
- Tone production and sound quality
- Phrasing and structure
- Stage presence
- Performance confidence and professionalism

Faculty members may offer suggestions regarding tempo, character, articulation, diction, stylistic accuracy, or other musical details. However, the final performance should reflect the student's own artistic understanding and preparation.

8. Accompanist Policy

If a piece requires piano accompaniment, participants are expected to perform with an accompanist unless otherwise approved by the festival committee.

9. Repertoire Change Deadline

Participants should change their final competition repertoire information before the festival begins.

Item	Deadline
Final Repertoire Change Deadline	August 5, 2026

10. Judging Criteria

Performances will be evaluated by festival faculty and/or invited adjudicators. The judging criteria may include:

- **Technical:** Accuracy, control, facility, intonation, rhythm, and coordination
- **Musical interpretation:** Style, phrasing, expression, structure, and artistic imagination
- **Tone quality / vocal quality:** Sound production, color, projection, and beauty of tone
- **Stage presence:** Confidence, professionalism, communication, and performance etiquette
- **Preparation and overall presentation:** Readiness, musical maturity, and completeness of performance
- **Artistic growth during the festival:** Engagement in lessons, openness to feedback, and improvement throughout the program

11. Awards and Recognition

Awards may be presented in each category and/or division, depending on the number and level of participants.

Possible awards include:

- First Prize



- Second Prize
- Third Prize

The jury reserves the right not to award a prize (vacancy) if the required standard is not met.

Prize winners will receive winner certificates.

12. Faculty Comments

Participants may receive written comments or feedback from faculty/jury members. Feedback is intended to support artistic development and help students continue improving after the festival.

13. Concert and Competition Relationship

The Students' Finale Concert on August 8, 2026 will also serve as the final competition performance.

This format allows students to experience a formal concert setting while being evaluated by the jury. Students should treat the performance as both:

- A public concert appearance
- A professional competition performance

14. Dress Code

Participants should wear concert attire.

15. Media Release

By participating in the competition and festival concert, participants agree that the festival may use photos, videos, names, repertoire information, and performance materials for festival documentation, publicity, educational promotion, and media coverage.

This may include:

- Festival website
- Social media platforms
- Printed brochures
- Promotional videos
- News releases
- Future festival materials

16. Terms and Disclaimer

1. The jury's decision is final.
2. The festival committee reserves the right to adjust the schedule, categories, divisions, awards, and performance order if necessary.
3. The festival committee may combine categories or divisions depending on the number of participants.
4. Participants are responsible for preparing their repertoire before arriving at the festival.
5. Incomplete repertoire information or late score submission may affect accompanist/rehearsal arrangements.
6. The festival committee reserves the right to remove any participant from the competition for inappropriate conduct, violation of festival rules, or failure to follow performance requirements.
7. The festival committee reserves the final right of interpretation regarding all competition rules and arrangements.