

2026 Thousand Islands International Piano Competition for Young People
Application Information & Entry Form

Thank you for your interest in the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition!
THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND WILL BE FINALIZED BY MARCH 15

Please read carefully as some requirements have changed.

When and Where:

September 11, 12 & 13, 2026
Maple Grove Estate
596 W. Broadway St., Cape Vincent, NY

Divisions and Competition Details

All pianists will compete in three rounds of competition, one each day.

Pianists will compete for cash prizes in two divisions:

- Junior Division - those not yet six months out of high school and younger
- Senior Division - high school graduates up to age 26

NEW Previous 1st prize winners cannot compete again in the same age division. Junior 1st prize winners need to wait until after high school graduation as indicated in the rules.

The Junior Division will compete first each day, followed by the Senior Division. The order of performers will change each day; performers will be notified of each day's line-up in advance. Failure to appear at the specified time will result in elimination from the competition.

The competition is limited to 14 contestants (with possible exceptions decided by the Artistic Director and Competition Committee).

Awards and Judging

Performances will be judged by a panel of professional pianists/music educators against a professional-artistic standard.

The awards ceremony will take place Sunday afternoon at approximately 2:00. Prizewinners will be determined by the judges, and the judges' decisions are final.

Awards are as follows:

Senior Division

- 1st Place - \$5,000
- 2nd Place - \$2,500
- 3rd Place - \$1,500

Junior Division

- 1st Place - \$3,000
- 2nd Place - \$2,000
- 3rd Place - \$1,000

The judges reserve the right to:

- Award multiple 1st, 2nd, or 3rd prizes
- Abstain from awarding a particular prize
- Split prizes between two competitors

Future performance opportunities may be offered to prize winners.

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Application Requirements

Applications are being accepted beginning April 20, 2026 and not later than May 20, 2026. Applicants will be notified by June 1st if they have been accepted. Electronic items must have been sent no later than 11:59 PM in your time zone on May 20th. Snail-mail items must be postmarked no later than May 20th, 2026.

NOTE: Your application will not be considered until ALL ITEMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED by the competition committee.

A completed application must include the all of the following items:

Item 1: Completed entry form (page 5)

Item 2: Proof of age (photocopy of birth certificate, passport, driver's license, etc.)

Item 3: Entry fee of \$150 payable by check to CVAC-Piano. If you live outside of the U.S. you may pay by PayPal.

Items 1, 2 and 3 must be snail-mailed to:

Thousand Islands International Piano Competition for Young People
c/o Cape Vincent Arts Council
PO Box 848
Cape Vincent, NY 13618

Item 4: A musical/personal biography of less than 200 words written in the third person. Your bio must be provided in a Microsoft Word document—**no PDFs**.

Item 5: Your repertoire, including timing. This must be provided in a Microsoft Word document—**no PDFs**.

Note: Be sure to review the Sample Repertoire on page 4 for your division before submitting your repertoire list.

Item 6: An email from your instructor approving your participation.

Items 4, 5, and 6 must be emailed to both:

chopin@capevincentartscouncil.org **AND** 58minton@gmail.com

NEW Item 7: All Applicants must send two YouTube private or public link performances to the Artistic Director (58minton@gmail.com). The performances should be representative of the contestant's playing level. A prescreening committee will determine which applicants will be accepted.

Daily Programs for Juniors and Seniors

Round I (Friday): A program of approximately 18 minutes of music.

Round II (Saturday): A program of approximately 18 minutes of music.

Round III (Sunday): Chopin program

See specific details below

Round I and Round II Repertoire Selections for Juniors and Seniors:

Within Round I OR Round II, all participants must include:

Music of J.S. Bach. Any original work(s) for keyboard are acceptable. Transcriptions do not fulfill this requirement. Transcriptions and works by other Baroque composers may be performed as Additional Music (see below).

Music from the Classical Era. (If you choose a sonata, one movement is sufficient.)

Round I may not include the music of Chopin.

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Round II Chopin Selections for Juniors and Seniors:

Round II must include some music by Chopin—a single work of any length OR multiple works not to exceed a total of 10 minutes. Chopin transcriptions do not fulfill this requirement but may be performed under Additional Music. Chopin sonatas or their individual movements are not permitted in any category.

It is not necessary to completely fill the entire performance time or 18 minutes. Junior Division participants are especially encouraged to program the amount of time they feel will represent them at their best. Judges feel that less is often more.

Additional music from any historical period may be chosen to round out your performance in either Round I or Round II within the given time limit.

Round III:

For Junior Division

- Any Chopin selection from the Senior Division list below OR Chopin works whose timing does not exceed 10 minutes (no minimum).
- Chopin works from Round II cannot be reused.
- No sonatas or Chopin transcriptions are allowed.

For Senior Division

Must perform one Chopin selection from the following categories:

- Ballade
- Scherzo
- Fantasy in F Minor
- Polonaise: Op. 22, Op. 44, Op. 53 & Op. 61
- Preludes: A group of six (not necessarily in order)
- One Nocturne plus two Etudes
- Barcarolle, Op. 60

Notes About your Music:

You may be asked by the Artistic Director to provide a legal copy of some music (electronic or hard copy) to be viewed by the jury if a work is not considered standard repertoire.

How To Submit Your Repertoire:

- Begin with a heading that states your division (Junior Division or Senior Division) and your name as you want it to appear in the program.
- Include all information normally listed in a formal program. This means opus numbers or other identifying labels (for example, Hob./K./Longo/D./etc.) Include the movement by including I./II./III./etc. and the appropriate tempo marking(s).
- DO NOT SEND SOMETHING LIKE: Beethoven Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor. It must be in this format: Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No 2 "Moonlight" (I. Adagio sostenuto).
- It is not necessary to use less common catalogue designation letters and numbers when the written description clarifies the work to be performed.
- Bach works from the WTC should indicate, WTC I, or WTC II, not the BWV number. All other works not from WTC must include BWV number.
- Use Times New Roman and 12-point font in a Word Format. Absolutely NO PDFs.

Below are samples of exemplary repertoire submissions. The format is perfect! Please make every effort to format your repertoire in a similar fashion. **Please use Times New Roman 12 font and place the timings of each piece to the right of the composer.**

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Senior Division Sample Repertoire:

Senior Division - Jane Doe

Round I

Prelude and Fugue in G major. WTC I (8:00)

From Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant Jesus – Noël, No. 13 Messiaen (4:00)

From Five Bagatelles: C. Vine (1:30) II. Leggiero e Legato Suggestion Diabolique Prokofiev (3:00)

Round II

32 Variations in C Minor Beethoven (12:40)

Rondo in E-flat Major, Op 16 Chopin (9:50)

Round III

Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp Minor Chopin (7:20)

Junior Division Sample Repertoire:

Junior Division - John Smith

Round I

From English Suite No. 2 in A minor, BWV 807

I. Prelude Bach (4:30)

Arabesque No. 1 Debussy (5:00)

Sonata in B minor, Hob. XVI: 32 I.

I. Allegro moderato Haydn (3:40)

Round II

Mazurka in A minor, Op. 17, No. 4 Chopin (4:00)

Mazurka in A minor, Op. 67, No. 4 Chopin (2:15)

Mazurka in C-sharp minor, Op. 63, No. 3 Chopin (2:15)

Mazurka in B-flat minor, Op. 7, No. 1 Chopin (1:30)

Toccata Khachaturian (5:00)

Round III

Berceuse (Lullaby) in D-flat major, Op. 57 Chopin (5:00)

Mazurka in D-flat major Op. 30, No. 3 Chopin (3:00)

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2026 Entry Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name (as you want it to appear in programs) _____

High School Graduation Date/Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Age as of August 31 of Competition Year _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip Code _____

Country _____ Phone _____

Email (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

Instructor's Name _____

Instructor's Phone _____

Instructor's Email _____

I give permission to Cape Vincent Arts Council to take and use my photo in their promotional material. I release and hold harmless CVAC and its agents from and against any claims or liability arising from or related to the use, publication, or distribution of the photographs.

Signature _____ Today's Date _____

Name (please print) _____

Minor Release - For Persons 17 and Under:

I am the parent or legal guardian of _____
and I give permission to CVAC to take and use my child's photo in their promotional material. I release and hold harmless CVAC and its agents from and against any claims or liability arising from or related to the use, publication or distribution of the photographs.

Signature _____ Today's Date _____

Name (please print) _____