FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For more information please contact:
Feder@washingtonperformingarts.org or 202-533-1894
What are the benefits of competing in the competition?
Young musicians develop confidence and focus as they prepare their pieces, and some will compete before professional judges. They will have great experience preparing a video audition, which is a common audition method for schools and program. All participants will receive valuable feedback from the judges, and some will also receive a cash prize or scholarship.

Is there a fee to participate?
No, it is free for students to enter the competition.

Preliminary Round

How do I access the application on Submittable.com?

- Go to https://washingtonperformingarts.submittable.com/login
- Either sign in if you already have an existing account, or click “sign up” to create an account.
- Once you are signed in, look for the form titled, “49th Annual Joseph and Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition 2020”, and click on it.
- When you complete your application you will receive a confirmation email.
- You are able to save an open application and complete at a later date (before the January 8th deadline)

Why is there a preliminary round?
The preliminary round is when the judges get a sense of the student’s abilities, background, and musicianship. If a category has a small number of participants, the winner may be chosen during the preliminary round. For larger categories, the judges will invite select applicants to perform at the Live Final Round.

Why are you using Submittable?
Washington Performing Arts is using the Submittable application portal to help streamline the application process for both the participant and the adjudicator. The portal offers many features that will help make the competition process more efficient and user friendly.

Can I submit more than one application with one account?
Yes, if you are a parent or guardian registering multiple students you can submit up to four applications under one username. Students may also submit more than one application if they wish to compete on more than one instrument.

I am having trouble with the Submittable website. Who should I contact?
Contact support@submittable.com or visit their help center at https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter. Their business hours are 9am-5pm (Mountain Time) on Mondays-Sundays. Assistance may not be available outside of regular business hours.
If I miss the deadline, can I still apply?
   No, applications will NOT be accepted after the deadline.

   Washington Performing Arts reserves the right to extend the deadline. Should this occur, it will be communicated on the Washington Performing Arts website.

Should I submit one or two videos?
   Please submit two videos. One for the primary piece and one for the secondary piece.

Can I submit an audio recording for the Preliminary Round?
   No, all recordings submitted must be in video form. A simple recording taken with a video recording device (i.e. cell phone) is satisfactory as long as the judges can clearly see and hear the player.

What if I’m not sure which level my repertoire falls under?
   First, consult your teacher to make sure you are playing appropriate repertoire. Second, check the ASTA suggested repertoire database to see a comprehensive list of repertoire and assigned levels. If your piece isn’t listed in the database, please contact Washington Performing Arts at Feder@washingtonperformingarts.org.

What is ASTA?
   ASTA is the American String Teachers Association. This organization helps string teachers develop and refine their career. Additionally, they provide journals every year with repertoire examples and levels of difficulty. Washington Performing Arts is a certified member of the American String Teachers Association

What do I wear?
   Dress code is not required for the preliminary round but is recommended to dress appropriately for performance (no jeans or t-shirts).

Live Final Round

How will I know if I am invited to play at the Live Final Round?
   Washington Performing Arts will email all participants on March 10, 2020 to let them know whether or not they are invited to the Live Final Round.

Can my friends and family watch the Live Final Round?
   No, the competition room is closed to the public

Where is the Live Final Round?
   The finalist round will be held at the University of the District of Columbia (4200 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC Van Ness Campus, Fine Arts Building #46 West (rear of campus). Click here to view the campus map and directions.

Do I need to memorize my pieces?
   For the Preliminary Round, memorization is not required but highly recommended. For the Live Final Round memorization is required.
I need an accompanist for the finalist round. Can I use the Washington Performing Arts assigned musician?

There are limited amount of applicants who can use the Washington Performing Arts assigned accompanist. To ensure your spot, submit your application and recordings as soon as possible.

What do I wear?

Make sure to dress appropriately in performance attire (e.g. no jeans or t-shirts). Dress code is not required for the preliminary round but is recommended.

Awards Ceremony and Concert

When and where is the Awards Ceremony and Concert?

The Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, April 17, 2020. 1st place winners from each category will be invited to perform in a concert prior to the award announcements.

Location: Washington Conservatory of Music (One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD)

Have more questions?

You may contact Washington Performing Arts staff Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm via email at feder@washingtonperformingarts.org or phone at 202-533-1894 for more information. Main contact: Elisabeth Staal, Education and Community Program Coordinator.