

A decorative graphic of a musical staff with notes, positioned to the left of the word 'shean'.

THE
shean
PIANO
COMPETITION

Edmonton, Alberta
May 14th - 16th

2026

VIRTUAL

HISTORY

Establishment of **The Shean Strings & Piano Competition** was made possible by a generous grant in 1996 to the Edmonton Community Foundation by Ranald and Vera Shean.

Strings were featured in the Competition's inaugural year, 1996, with the first piano competition two years later.

The Sheans were highly respected musicians and teachers in Edmonton. Both are members of the **City of Edmonton's Arts & Culture Hall of Fame**. Ranald passed away in 1997; Vera in 2005.

The Competition is open to **amateur** musicians, **15 to 28 years** of age, who are residents of Canada currently studying here or abroad, **OR** non-resident students now studying in Canada for a minimum of two school years.

Six semi-finalists, plus two alternates, will be selected from the CD audio discs submitted. The Semi-finals and Finals will be held **VIRTUALLY** from **May 16 to 18, 2026** via YouTube links sent to the Competition. Detailed information will be sent to semi-finalists.

COMPETITION WINNER

The winner of the Shean Piano Competition may be invited to perform with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at a future date.

JURY

Two distinguished panels of judges shall preside: one for the Preliminary Round, and a second for the Semi-finals and Finals.

AWARDS

First Place	\$8,000	Fourth Place	\$3,000
Second Place	\$5,000	Fifth Place	\$2,000
Third Place	\$4,000	Sixth Place	\$2,000

The Paul J. Bourret Memorial Award for the best performance of the Test Piece **\$1,000**



REPERTOIRE REGULATIONS

- I. Preliminary round: 55 minutes maximum**
Submit 3 copies of a CD audio disc: each CD audio disc **MUST** include the following in the order given below:
 1. The first movement of a Concerto.
Note: Judicious cuts are acceptable for lengthy opening tutti
 2. A Prelude and Fugue from WTC 1 or 2 by J.S. Bach.
 3. The first movement of a Sonata by Beethoven, Clementi, J. Haydn, or W.A. Mozart.
 4. A Romantic work: a complete sonata (e.g. Chopin), a complete work (e.g. R. Schumann's *Scenes from Childhood*), or a group of character pieces (e.g. preludes, etudes, nocturnes) by **ONE** Romantic composer.

- II. Semi-final round: DAY ONE — 55 minutes maximum; this includes all pauses**
and **MUST include the following 4 pieces ONLY:**
 1. A Baroque **OR** Classical composition.
 2. A Romantic **OR** Impressionistic composition.
 3. A virtuoso published 20th or 21st Century composition.
 4. **TEST PIECE:** *The Little Island*, op. 14, no. 2 **AND** *Floods of Spring*, op. 14, no. 11 by Earl Wild.
NOTE: Compositions from the Preliminary Round **CANNOT** be repeated in the Semi-final Round.

- III. Final round: DAY TWO**
 1. The complete chosen Concerto, **including all uncut tutti sections**, from the **Preliminary Round**.

- IV. Compact Discs**
 1. Compact discs **MUST** be of professional quality, unedited, and **MUST** be playable **ONLY** on a standard CD player.
(please note: .wav format is NOT acceptable)
 2. Compositions on the disc **MUST** be in the order given in the Preliminary Round, and the disc labelled with the compositions and movements.
 3. Recordings **MUST** be made within one year prior to the deadline for entering the Competition.
 4. Discs must **NOT** contain **ANY** reference to the identity of the performer.
 5. Failure to comply **WILL** result in disqualification.

APPLICATIONS

Applications **MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

1. A typed, or printed, completed application form.
2. A cheque or money order for \$200.00, payable to the **Edmonton Music & Speech Arts Festival**. This fee is non-refundable. E-transfers can be sent to info@emsaf.ca (*please clearly state for whom you are paying*).
3. Three CD audio discs, each containing the required repertoire as outlined in the **Repertoire Regulations**.
4. A **typed list of your complete program repertoire in performance order including movement titles**.
5. A photocopy of the applicant's birth certificate or passport.
6. A typed biographical profile of approximately **200 words** in prose form, which can be used for publicity.
7. A glossy colour photograph, at least 5x7 inches, to be used in the program. The photo should be clearly labelled on the back. Photocopies will not be accepted.
8. A **signed, dated** declaration including the contact information from the recording technician, if applicable.



CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

APPLICATION RULES

1. **No** repertoire changes will be allowed.
2. Order of competition shall be by lot.
3. All applications, including CD audio discs, fee, birth certificate and completed typed forms **MUST ARRIVE** at the Competition Office **NO LATER** than **December 8, 2025**. There can be **NO** exception made for any applicant.
4. First place award winners are **INELIGIBLE** in subsequent competitions.

Mail completed application form to:

The Shean Piano Competition

14004 75 AVE NW

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5R 2Y6

Attention:

Heather Bedford-Clooney, Executive Director

Phone (780) 484-8325

Questions:

Kent Sutherland, Executive Assistant

Phone (780) 982-9916

Email sheancompetition@gmail.com

Web www.sheancompetition.com

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Transportation to and from Edmonton, and accommodation for competitors and collaborative pianists will be the sole responsibility of the competitor.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Shean Piano Competition is managed by The Shean Trust Committee in partnership with the Edmonton Music & Speech Arts Festival. Any changes regarding Competition arrangements will be made without prior notice. This document was originally drafted in English. In case of dispute, the only text of legal value is the original English text.
2. Competitors must be amateur musicians, 15 to 28 years of age. **The competitor's age is determined as of MARCH 31st of the year of the PRELIMINARY ROUND.**
3. Competitors must be residents of Canada currently studying here, or abroad, **OR** non-resident students now studying in Canada for a minimum of two school years.
4. Competitors must provide their own assisting artist and will be responsible for all expenses for both the assisting artist and the competitor.
5. **For the Preliminary Round, music MUST be on a CD audio disc and MUST be performed in the order given**, i.e. concerto, J.S. Bach, sonata and Romantic work. In the Semi-final round, competitors may choose the order but **MUST** submit the chosen order of repertoire to be performed including timing, BWV number, Opus number or equivalent, and titles of movements where applicable.
6. **ALL** music in the Semi-final and Final Rounds must be memorized.
7. Failure to comply with **ALL** competition requirements automatically disqualifies a competitor.
8. In case of illness or accident, a medical doctor's certificate must be provided and a portion of the competitor's fee will be refunded.
9. The Jury reserves the right to **withhold ANY award**.
10. Competitors must not be related to any Jury member, nor have studied with a Jury member within the previous 2 years prior to the Competition dates — excluding Master Classes.
11. The decision of the Jury at each stage of the Competition will be final and not subject to appeal, review, or question.
12. The Shean Piano Competition reserves the right to produce archival recordings of the Semi-final and Final Rounds for the promotion of the Competition.
13. Applications are to be mailed and will **NOT** be accepted electronically. The Competition Office cannot assume responsibility for any application lost in the mail.