



# The 24<sup>th</sup> United States International Music Competition

**ABOUT:** The **United States International Music Competition** is organized by the United States International Music Foundation affiliated with the Chinese Music Teachers' Association of Northern California, a non-profit organization. This competition provides young musicians with an opportunity to exhibit their talents and reward their hard work, as well as to encourage them to appreciate music cross-culturally.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Contestants of all nationalities through age 30. Past First Place winners may not compete in an age group that they have won previously. However, they may elect to compete in another age-appropriate group.

**INSTRUMENT CATEGORIES:** Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Classical Chamber Ensembles, Vocal (solo and ensembles) and Traditional Chinese Instruments (solo and ensembles) categories are held annually. Marimba, Flute, and Clarinet are also included in the 2017 competition categories.

**AGE GROUPS:** Eligibility for each group will be determined by the contestant's age as of **June 1, 2017** (application deadline). Each instrument category has different age groups.

Category & Age groups	Piano		Violin	Viola	Cello	Vocal	
A	Age 9 or under		Age 8 or under	Age 14 or under	Age 11 or under	Age 9 or under	
B	Age 11 or under		Age 10 or under	Age 17 or under	Age 14 or under	Age 12 or under	
C	Age 14 or under		Age 13 or under	Age 30 or under	Age 17 or under	Age 14 or under	
D	Age 17 or under		Age 17 or under		Age 30 or under	Age 17 or under	
E	Age 30 or under		Age 30 or under			Age 30 or under	
Category & Age groups	Marimba		Flute	Clarinet	Classical Chamber Music	Vocal Ensemble	
A	Age 11 or under		Age 12 or under	Age 12 or under	*Age 15 or under	*Age 15 or under	
B	Age 14 or under		Age 14 or under	Age 14 or under	*Age 30 or under	*Age 30 or under	
C	Age 17 or under		Age 17 or under	Age 17 or under	*Ensemble group is determined by the oldest contestant in the group.		
D	Age 22 or under		Age 22 or under	Age 22 or under			
E	Age 30 or under		Age 30 or under	Age 30 or under			
Traditional Chinese Instruments  Category & Age groups	Zither  古箏	Bowed Strings  二胡  中胡 高胡 板胡	Plucked String  琵琶  中阮 小阮 柳琴 三弦 揚琴	Woodwinds  管樂  笛子 洞簫 巴烏 噴吶 笙 管子	Guqin  古琴	Professional Zither  古箏 專業組	Traditional Chinese Instruments Ensemble  中國民族 樂器重奏
A	Age 11 or under				Age 18 or under	*Age 15 or under	
B	Age 14 or under				Age 30 or under	*Age 30 or under	
C	Age 17 or under				*Ensemble group is determined by the oldest contestant in the group.		
D	Age 22 or under						
E	Age 30 or under						

#### Final competition (Live Round)

- **Date: Saturday, August 12-13, 2017**
- **Location: Braun Music Center at Stanford University, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford, CA 94305**
- Competition winners will be announced when the result is finalized

#### The Winners' Recitals and Award Ceremonies

- **Date: Sunday, August 20, 2017**

### THREE AWARD CATEGORIES:

#### **I. YOUNG ARTIST AWARDS:**

- **Preliminary video round: due on June 1, 2017.**
- **Winners from each instrumental group will be awarded the following:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: USD \$300, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: USD \$150, Trophy, and Certificate
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: USD \$100, Trophy, and Certificate
  - Honorable Places: Trophy and Certificate
  - All finalists will receive the Certificate of Recognition
  - All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition

#### **II. CHINESE MUSIC AWARD:**

- The purpose of the **Chinese Music Award** is to promote Chinese Music and culture.
- Contestants can **exclusively** compete in this individual category, which is organized into the same instrument or vocal age groups.
- Please note that the Chinese music piece does not require preliminary video submission. The competition for the **Chinese Music Award** will take place on the same days as the final round.
- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time is limited to 6 minutes.
- Application fee is charged separately for this category.
- Contestants in the Traditional Chinese Instruments and Classical Chamber Music categories are **not** eligible to participate in the **Chinese Music Award**.
- **AWARDS:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: USD \$150, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Trophy and Certificate
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Trophy and Certificate
  - All participants will receive a certificate of participation.
  - All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition
- **J & V Foundation & CMTANC Commissioning Project Award**
  - If the contestant selects the composition from the *J & V Foundation & CMTANC Commissioning Project* and wins First Place, the J & V Foundation will reward USD \$150 scholarship in addition to the Chinese Music Award.
  - These compositions includes: **FANTASY AMOUR** for piano, **FLOATING CLOUDS** for violin, **AMIS' FEAST** for violin, **FLOATING CLOUDS** for cello, and **DANCE TO THE MOON** for cello.
  - The 2017 J&V new music for violin, cello, and marimba are composed by a Taiwanese composer, Hao-Yuan Chiu. The music will be available after the premiere concert on Apr., 9, 2017.
  - To request the music, please email: [commissionproject@cmtanc.org](mailto:commissionproject@cmtanc.org).

#### **III. SPECIAL THEME AWARD - Johann Sebastian Bach:**

- The purpose of the **Special Theme Award** is to promote specific western composers. The theme may vary yearly.
- Contestants can **exclusively** compete in this individual category, which is organized into the same instrument or vocal age groups.
- Please note that the Special Theme Award does not require preliminary video submission. The competition for the **Special Theme Award** will take place on the same days as the final round.
- No limit to music length. However, the live performance time is limited to 6 minutes.
- Application fee is charged separately for this category.
- **AWARDS:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: USD \$150, Trophy, Certificate, and performance at the Winners Recital

- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Trophy and Certificate
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Trophy and Certificate
- All participants will receive a certificate of participation.
- All winners' instructors will receive the Certificate of Recognition.

### COMPETITION PROCEDURE:

- Preliminary Video Round (Youth Artist Awards only): Contestants will be evaluated in the preliminary round based on two performance video clips. The two submitted clips must be selected from the listed repertoire below. Each piece is required to be performed in its entirety in the video submission—with cadenza if applicable. No piece may be entered more than once in the competition.
- Uploaded preliminary videos: Video clips must be recorded from one, single camera angle and must have good lighting/visibility of the performer. Editing is not permitted. The two separate video clips shall be uploaded on **YouTube.com** or **YouKu.com**.
- Deadline: By **June 1, 2017**.
- Finalists will be posted on [www.usimc.org](http://www.usimc.org) by **July, 1, 2017**.
- Final Round instructions for finalists will be notified by email.

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

STEP ONE: Online registration for USIMC begins on **April 1, 2017** on [www.usimc.org](http://www.usimc.org).

The registration deadline is **June 1, 2017**.

STEP TWO: After completing the online registration form, please print it out and submit it with the following documents BY MAIL:

1. Application form (the **confirmation email** received after your submission)
2. Proof of age (photocopy of driver's license, passport or birth certificate).
3. Application Fee: **Young Artist Award categories, Special Theme Award or Chinese Music Award:** (USD)
  - \$70.00 per contestant, per category (students of Active CMTANC members)
  - \$100.00 per contestant, per category (students of Non-CMTANC members)
  - \$120.00 per international contestant, per category**Traditional Chinese Instrument Ensemble, Classical Chamber Ensemble or Vocal Ensemble:**
  - \$40 per contestant (coached by Active CMTANC members)
  - \$50 per contestant (coached by Non-CMTANC members)
  - \$60 per international contestant
4. All US contestants pay application fee ONLINE ONLY, either using credit card or using PayPal. All fees are non-refundable. \$30 will be charged if application has missing documents. Please mail above documents and payment receipt to:

**2017 USIMC  
P. O. Box 3382  
Saratoga, CA 95070, U.S.A.**

- Please **DO NOT** mail by certified mail.
- If contestant is entering more than one category, the total fees for all categories entered may be included in one transaction.
- The two video links for the Youth Artist Award Category must be provided in the Registration Form. Once the Application Package is mailed, the music selections/titles cannot be changed.
- **All application packages must be POSTMARKED by June 1, 2017.**
- For international contestants only: if online payment is not acceptable or accepted, please pay application fees via a money order or cashier's check. Make the check payable to **USIMC** in USD.
- Please visit **[www.usimc.org](http://www.usimc.org)** for more information. For questions, contact us by email: [info@usimc.org](mailto:info@usimc.org) or +1(408) 681-9928

### REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENT:

#### PIANO/VIOLIN/VIOLA/CELLO/FLUTE/CLARINET:

- Contestants must select two original and contrasting pieces from different music periods. One of the two pieces must be from either the Baroque or the Classical period.
- No simplified music is allowed.

- Time limit of free choice:

Group	Piano	Violin	Viola	Cello	Flute	Clarinet
A	6 minutes	8 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	6 minutes	6 minutes
B	8 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	12 minutes	8 minutes	8 minutes
C	10 minutes	12 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes
D	12 minutes	15 minutes		15 minutes	12 minutes	12 minutes
E	15 minutes	15 minutes			15 minutes	15 minutes

### **Classical Chamber Music:**

- Requirement: One movement of chamber music **originally** composed by **Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn or Brahms**. No simplified or (re)arranged music is allowed.
- The chosen music length shall not exceed 12 minutes.
- Maximum 6 people in each group.

### **VOCAL: including solo and ensemble categories.**

**Vocal ensemble:** Maximum 6 people in each group.

#### **1. Contestants must enter two selections.**

- There are no restrictions on language or style. The content should be appropriate and family friendly.
- Total time for both selections should not exceed 6 minutes; both should be performed from memory.
- The two selections for the final round must be the same as the two selections entered in the Preliminary Round.
- Accompaniment is optional in the Preliminary Round.

#### **2. Final round:**

- Accompaniment is mandatory unless the song is acapella.
- No restrictions on the type of accompaniment, contestants may bring CD accompaniment.
- If piano accompaniment, contestant must choose either an accompanist from USIMC's approved list or self-accompaniment.
- Participating instructors **cannot** be accompanists for any contestants.

### **MARIMBA: Both pieces to be played should not exceed 12 minutes.**

<b>Group A</b>	One free choice for 2 or 4 mallets and Marche by J. S. Bach (No. 16 from Anna Magdalena Notebook) provided for two mallets
<b>Groups B/C</b>	One movement from a Cello Suite or Sonata and Partita for Violin by J. S. Bach and one original 4-mallet solo for marimba
<b>Group D</b>	One movement from a Cello Suite by J. S. Bach and one original 4-mallet solo for marimba
<b>Group E</b>	Rotation No. 4 by Eric Sammut and one original 4-mallet solo for marimba

### **TRADITIONAL CHINESE INSTRUMENTS: including solo and ensemble categories.**

**Solo instruments include:**

**Zither (古筝)** including non-professional and Professional Categories)

**Guzhen (古琴)**

**Woodwinds of Chinese Music Instrument:** : Dizi (笛子), Dongxiao (洞箫), Bawu (巴乌), Suona (唢呐), Sheng (笙),  
Guanzi (管子)

**Bowed Strings of Chinese Music Instrument:** Erhu (二胡), Zhonghu (中胡), Gaohu (高胡), Banhu (板胡)

**Plucked String Chinese Music Instruments:** Pipa (琵琶), Liuqin (柳琴), Zhongruan (中阮), Xiaoruan (小阮),  
Sanxian (三弦), Yangqin (扬琴)

- Contestant's two contesting pieces must be from different musical periods with one piece required to be from traditional Chinese music.
- Time limit of choices:

Groups	Zither 古箏	Guqin 古琴	Bowed Strings 二胡 中胡、高胡、板胡	Plucked String 琵琶 中阮、小阮、柳琴、三弦、揚琴	Woodwinds 管樂 笛子、洞簫、巴烏、噴呐、笙、管子	Professional Zither 古箏 專業組	Traditional Chinese Instruments Ensemble 中國民族樂器 重奏
A	12 minutes				15 minutes	15 minutes	8 minutes
B	15 minutes				15 minutes	15 minutes	8minutes
C	15 minutes						
D	15 minutes						
E	15 minutes						

#### Traditional Chinese Instrument Ensemble

- Maximum 7 people in each group; free combination of instruments.
- One free choice of music, not to exceed 8 minutes.

#### RULES:

1. At the competition's discretion, a Category/Group with less than 5 registered contestants may be cancelled or combined with other Categories/Groups.
2. Past First Place and Best Award winners cannot register again for the same group of that instrumental category.
3. No accompaniment is permitted for string instruments in the preliminary round (in the two video clips uploaded to YouTube.com or YouKu.com).
4. Contestants are required to bring non-photocopied music (if purchased from online databases, please print and attach your online or emailed purchase receipt) to the final competition, with the exception of the Chinese pieces.
5. Original compositions are required in all of the categories. Free choice repertoire of Marimba and Harp categories can be published transcriptions.
6. Contestants may register for multiple instrumental categories.
7. No changes in repertoire are allowed after the Application Package is mailed.
8. In the Final Round, all repertoires must be performed from memory and complete. Repeats are not necessary.
9. Teachers may not conduct or accompany their own students during the competition.
10. Due to the time limitation, Judges reserve the right to stop or interrupt the contestant during the final audition. This will not affect the result.
11. The winners will be chosen from the finalists in each group. However, if none of the finalists meet the standard, judges reserve the right to declare no winners.
12. All judges' decisions are final. Contestants - Parents/guardians cannot appeal the final decision of the Judges. If any contact with the judges is discovered, the contestants or winners will be disqualified.
13. No comments will be provided.
14. In the event of a tie, each winner will receive a trophy and share the scholarship.
15. Judges will decide the Winners Recital Program.
16. Each contestant hereby gives USIMC-CMTANC and CMTANC permission to record, use, duplicate, distribute, and/or modify creatively, derivative works for public display of the contestant's performance in the audition and competition.
17. Subject to the limitations by applicable laws and regulations, each contestant waives any and all claims or actions against USIMC-CMTANC, CMTANC and its judges, staffs, officers, directors and volunteers that have arisen and/or may arise from Competitor's participation in the audition and competition.