



The First

Yamaha Junior Piano Competition



Singapore

May 2021



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■ Overview of the Yamaha Junior Piano Competition

Goals of the Competition

Yamaha's educational philosophy is "to foster the musical sensitivity that everyone is born with, to develop the ability to enjoy creating and playing the music of their own and ultimately share the joy of music with anyone," and we have conducted music education to cultivate music students and talented individuals who attain success in a wide range of musical activities in many different genres.

With this philosophy in mind, Yamaha Junior Piano Competition (Japan), has been conducted since 2016 based on a desire toward enabling performers to freely express the emotions they gather from music scores as well as to broaden their musical horizons and range of expressions in a freeform manner. Aimed at piano students aged 15 years or younger, this competition serves as a forum for students to learn, polish their skills, and develop as pianists.

The piano is a popular instrument that dates back over 300 years. Many piano compositions were produced and developed along with the evolution of instruments throughout the history of Western music. As time progressed, pianos were used in various musical contexts, with the appearance of musical genres and styles outside of classical music. We can say that musically, the piano has now entered an era of high diversity. The Yamaha Junior Piano Competition is known for its freedom in a wide range of musical choices, such as arrangement performances and performances in which contestants can select the pieces they want to play, regardless of genre.

We hope that all participants will boost their expressive skills in performance and enrich their individuality as a performer.

■ Features of the Yamaha Junior Piano Competition in Japan

The Compulsory Pieces are from Baroque, Romantic, and Classical categories

The Compulsory Pieces are from the classical period of music in its broad sense. As students in this age bracket are at a crucial period in their piano learning, compositions have been selected from these three categories so that all participants can learn and become interested in these styles of music. The pieces have been selected with the goal for participants to experience musical expression, the historical context for the pieces and how the style for each work came to exist in that era, along with the beauty of the melodies and harmonies.

This will undoubtedly create a wide-ranging foundation on which participants can build to achieve progress in their music—whether they choose to continue enriching their knowledge of classical music, study popular music, or play instruments other than the piano.

Free Selection Pieces for contestants to express themselves

One characteristic of the Yamaha Junior Piano Competition (Japan) is that contestants can perform pieces they want to play, regardless of musical genre. We believe that it is important for applicants to perform what they want to play and what they can play well, so we have incorporated this concept into the competition as Free Selection Pieces.

Contestants are encouraged to select pieces that let them fully express their own individual personality.

Broadening musical horizons with arrangement performances

The greatest characteristic of the Yamaha Junior Piano Competition (Japan) is that participants are required to perform Arrangement Pieces at the Grand Finale (there is no requirement for Arrangement Pieces in Division A). The selection for this segment includes music from a wide range of genres, including operas, symphonies, compositions from musicals, folk music, and they are rewritten for performance as a piano solo. Contestants perform scores provided by the Competition Administration Office (Japan), and they are free to add their own creative touches to these scores according to their own skill level.

Although it is common to play ready-made pieces for the piano, we believe that experience in these Arrangement Pieces will broaden contestants' musical horizons and palette of expression, allowing them to hone their individuality and style as performers, as compared to only working towards accurately reproducing ready-made pieces.

■ Yamaha Junior Piano Competition Singapore

Guidelines, Rules & Regulations

1. Schedule

Heats	
Video Audition Applications	1 – 19 July 2021
Video Audition Results	August 2021
Semifinals	
Music Salon @ Yamaha Thomson Plaza	11 September 2021
Finals	
Music Salon @ Yamaha Thomson Plaza	29 December 2021

2. Eligibility


- This competition is open to all Piano students of Yamaha Music School, aged between 6 to 15.
- Singaporeans and Permanent Residents of Singapore are eligible.
- Foreigners with long-term visa passes may apply subject to the approval of the organizer.

3. Categories for Participation


Categories	Division A	Division B	Division C	Division D
Age As of 1 April 2022	6 – 8 Birth date between/on 2 April 2013 and 1 April 2016	9 – 10 Birth date between/on 2 April 2011 and 1 April 2013	11 – 12 Birth date between/on 2 April 2009 and 1 April 2011	13 – 15 Birth date between/on 2 April 2006 and 1 April 2009

4. The Music for the Competition


■ Division A – Time Limit of 4 minutes

Heats	2 contrasting pieces from ABRSM Grade 2 – 3 Exam Pieces 2019/2020 + 2021/2022 (Free Selection)	
Semifinals	1 of the above Free Selection pieces AND 1 piece from the following (Compulsory Selection) - Burgmuller 25 Studies Op. 100 - J. S. Bach Anna Magdalena Notebook	
Finals	The Compulsory Selection piece from Semifinals AND the following:	
Compulsory Piece	Sample of Score	Free Selection Piece
A. Diabelli 1 st and 3 rd movement from Sonatina in F major, Op. 168 No. 1		Burgmuller 25 Studies Op. 100 OR J. S. Bach Anna Magdalena Notebook



■ Division B – Time Limit of 6 minutes

Heats	2 contrasting pieces from ABRSM Grade 4 – 5 Exam Pieces 2019/2020 + 2021/2022 (Free Selection)		
Semifinals	1 of the above Free Selection pieces AND 1 piece from the following (Compulsory Selection) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kabalevsky 30 pieces for Children Op. 27- J. S. Bach 18 Little Preludes		
Finals	The Compulsory Selection piece from Semifinals AND the following:		
Compulsory Piece		Sample of Score	Free Selection Piece
F. J. Haydn 1 st and 3 rd movement from Sonata in G Major Hob. XVI-27			Kabalevsky 30 pieces for Children Op. 27 OR J. S. Bach 18 Little Preludes

■ Division C – Time Limit of 8 minutes

Heats	2 contrasting pieces from ABRSM Grade 6 – 7 Exam Pieces 2019/2020 + 2021/2022 (Free Selection)	
Semifinals	1 of the above Free Selection pieces AND 1 piece from the following (Compulsory Selection) - Chopin Waltz - J. S. Bach Two-part Invention / Sinfonia	
Finals	The compulsory selection piece from Semifinals AND the following:	
Compulsory Piece		Free Selection Piece
M. Clementi Second movement Arietta con Variazioni From Sonata in E-flat Major Op. 23-3		 Chopin Waltz OR J. S. Bach Two-part Invention / Sinfonia

■ Division D – Time Limit of 10 minutes

Heats	2 contrasting pieces from ABRSM Grade 8 Exam Pieces 2019/2020 + 2021/2022 OR higher grade pieces (Free Selection)	
Semifinals	1 of the above Free Selection pieces AND 1 piece from the following (Compulsory Selection) - J. S. Bach Prelude OR Fugue	
Finals	The Compulsory Selection piece from Semifinals AND ONE of the following:	
Compulsory Piece	Sample Score	Free Selection Piece
1.L. v Beethoven 1st Movement from Sonata in C minor Op. 13		J. S. Bach Prelude OR J. S. Bach Fugue
2. Brahms Op.76 No.5 in C# minor		

5. Video Audition Applications for Heats

Divisions	All divisions
Recording Device	<p>1. Any device that allows 1080p recording</p> <p>2. The device must be stationary, for example, placed on a tripod, a handphone stand or even improvising with books/furniture for a stable and secure platform.</p>
Details to note:	<p>(1) Video submissions must be recorded on or after 7 June 2021.</p> <p>(2) The performer's entire body must be captured from the side angle.</p> <p>(3) Acoustic pianos must be used in video submissions. (i.e. upright pianos, grand pianos)</p> <p>(4) Editing the video or audio is strictly not allowed. Replacing or processing sounds within the audio data or adding effects is prohibited. Violations will result in disqualification from the competition.</p> <p>(5) Recording should be in landscape format.</p> <p>(6) After activating the record function, wait for 5 sec before starting the introductory speech, followed by the performance.</p> <p>(7) A brief self-introductory speech stating the following is required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Division A/B/C/D - Full Name of participant - Title of 2 pieces. <p>(8) Bowing before and after the performance is NOT required.</p> <p>(9) A short pause between pieces is required, just as with performances on stage.</p> <p>(10) After the performance, please wait 5 sec before ending the recording.</p> <p>(11) Submit the videos together with the Application Form online: https://forms.gle/NKwVAYZDtZc7QhvB7 with your name and the school location for the file name of your video data.</p> <p>(12) Total time taken for the Two Free Selection Pieces must fall within the respective time limit. This is to be strictly adhered to.</p> <p>(13) Pieces are to be performed in the order stated and reported beforehand in the application. Performing in a different order will result in points being deducted.</p>

6. For Semifinals and Finals

Entry qualifications	Gold Award winners are not allowed to participate in the same division in the following year.
Semifinals & Finals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Competitors must report to reception in person by the time specified. · The order of performances will be decided with a ballot held after reporting at the reception · Contestants will not be able to change the order determined by the ballot. · The order in which the pieces are to be performed is up to the contestant. However, the order must be in the sequence reported by the contestant beforehand. · Select pieces so that the total time of the Compulsory Piece and Free Selection Piece falls within the time limit stated for each respective Division. · Audience seating and entry is subject to change according to circumstances related to COVID-19. · More detailed information will be provided at a later date · Taking photos, audio, or videos from audience is prohibited, as this may interfere with performances and evaluation. · There will be no sale of photos or video recordings. · Due to venue operational policy, bringing in bouquets is also prohibited. Please note that the venue (and contestants) will not be able to accept any deliveries. · Results will be announced on stage, and on the website of YMAsia within 7 business days after the competition. · The names, ages, photos, etc. of competition winners will be published on the website and social media channels.

7. Additional Notes

Score for the Compulsory Pieces

- ◇ The scores from any publisher may be used, except for 'Simplified Versions'. There are no specifications or restrictions on using original or revised versions in general. However, if there are specifications for specific scores regarding certain pieces, contestants must check that they have the same score as the one specified, because elements such as composition length may differ greatly between publishers or revisions.

Performance

- ◇ Contestants are expected to play without scores for all stages of the competition.
- ◇ For the Semifinals and the Finals, the Compulsory Piece is to be played first, followed by the Free Selection
- ◇ Contestants are NOT required to play repetitions.
- ◇ Da Capo and Dal Segno must be observed.
- ◇ There will be no rehearsals for the Semifinals and Finals
- ◇ Formal attire is expected for all stages of the Competition.
- ◇ If the performance exceeds the time limit, judges will not stop the performance, but points will be deducted. However, please note that the performance may be stopped if the time limit is greatly exceeded, and impacts the progress of the competition.
- ◇ For the Video Audition, please perform the pieces in the order stated and reported beforehand in the application. Performing in a different order will result in points being deducted.

Time

- ◇ Selection of pieces are to be done carefully, so that the total performance time will fall within the limit specified for the respective divisions.
- ◇ The time is measured from when the first piece starts to when the second piece ends.
 - * This includes intervals between pieces but does not include the time taken to enter and exit, the time to install and remove auxiliary pedals and footstools, etc.

Auxiliary pedals, footstools, etc.

- ◇ Supplementary tools such as auxiliary pedals and footstools should be brought, installed, and removed by the contestant or an accompanying person. The Organizer will prepare one auxiliary pedal (product number in Japan HP-705) for the Semifinals and Finals, but installation and removal must be conducted by the contestant or an accompanying person.



Auxiliary pedal
(Product number HP-705)
[This pedal will be prepared
by the administration office]



Footstool (example)



Assist pedal (example)
[These should be brought
by the contestant or accompanying person]

Chairs

- ◇ The position and height of chairs may be adjusted by the contestant or an accompanying person.
- ◇ Please do not bring non-slip sheets or similar items for chairs. The Organizer will put non-slip caps on the chair

8. Judging Criteria

All Divisions:

- a. Performances will be judged on candidates' piano techniques and the interpretation of the music.
- b. The panel of judges will comprise Music Professionals.
- c. If the performance exceeds the time limit, judges will not stop the performance, but points will be deducted. However, please note that the performance may be stopped if the time limit is greatly exceeded, and impacts the progress of the competition.
- d. The judges may declare no winner for any award if, in their opinion, sufficient merit has not been achieved.
- e. Judges' decision is final, and no enquiries will be entertained.

9. Application Forms

- a. Application forms are available on Yamaha Music School Singapore Facebook and via this link: <https://forms.gle/NKwVAYZDtZc7Qhvb7>
- b. Participants must complete the entry form and submit by **19 July 2021**.
- c. A photocopy of participant's birth certificate/identification card/passport must be submitted together with the entry form, for verification of birthdate.
- d. Late entries and entries not meeting the criteria stated will not be accepted.
- e. Parental consent is needed for all participants.
- f. Participants are deemed to have agreed to abide by the rules and regulations when they submit the application form.
- g. The Organizer reserves the right to amend any of the rules and regulations without prior notice to the participants.
- h. The Organizer reserves the right to record, in part or in whole, any pieces performed in the festival and to reproduce the same in tape or disc, for any purpose according to their discretion.
- i. All winners of this event will be required to give at least 2 performances within a period of 12 months after the competition (subject to changes)

10. Prizes and Awards

- a. All participants of the competition will receive Certificates
- b. All Finalists will receive prizes as follows:

Division / Award	Certificate	Cash Prize
<u>A</u> Gold Silver Encouragement	✓ ✓ ✓	\$250 \$150 \$100
<u>B</u> Gold Silver Encouragement	✓ ✓ ✓	\$250 \$150 \$100
<u>C</u> Gold Silver Encouragement	✓ ✓ ✓	\$250 \$150 \$100
<u>D</u> Gold Silver Encouragement	✓ ✓ ✓	\$300 \$200 \$150

Winners of Gold Awards have an opportunity to participate in the Yamaha Junior Piano Competition YJPC (Japan) 2022. Detailed information will be released at a later date.

The prizes stated above are subject to changes by the Organizer.

■ Handling of Personal Information

The Yamaha Junior Piano Competition is jointly operated and conducted by Yamaha Music Japan; Yamaha Music Foundation; Yamaha Corporation Japan; Local Yamaha in your country and the contractors for running this competition. Personal information obtained through applications for the competition will be shared with these five parties under the regulations given below. By applying to participate in the competition, you indicate that you understand and consent to these regulations.

(Purposes of shared use)

- For running the competition, for issuing relevant information and notifications about running the competition, and other purposes related to the running and management of the competition
- For issuing information on products and services related to instruments and music

(Personal information subject to shared use)

- All information in the application, including name, birthdate, age, and enrolled course

(Management)

- Yamaha Music Japan
Keyboard Department Competition/Player Planning Division YJPC Administration Office

Notices from the Organizer

- ◇ Details and results of evaluation
Please note that we will not respond to any inquiries on the details and results of evaluation.
- ◇ Withdrawal due to diseases, etc.
Unfortunately, we will ask contestants to withdraw from the competition if they contract a disease that may be infectious.
- ◇ COVID-19 measures
Necessary measures will be taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, based on the relevant guidelines given by the authorities during the period of the competition.

