



STEINWAY  
PIANO COMPETITION

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BELGIUM

COMPETITION RULES 2024

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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- Table of Contents ..... 2**
- Mission ..... 3**
- Course of the Competition ..... 4**
  - I. Procedure ..... 4
  - II. Calendar ..... 4
- Candidates and Programme ..... 5**
  - III. General..... 5
  - IV. Categories and Programme..... 5
  - V. Entry..... 5
- Jury ..... 7**
  - VI. Jury..... 7
  - VII. Chairman of the Judging Panel..... 7
  - VIII. Procedures and Scoring ..... 8
    - A. Selection Tests ..... 8
    - B. Finals ..... 8
    - C. Public Prize..... 9
    - D. Scoring ..... 9
- Prizes ..... 10**
- General ..... 11**
- Contact ..... 12**

# MISSION

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The Steinway Youth Piano Competition is organised by “Steinway Piano Competition Belgium”, a non-profit organisation. It is the organisation’s aim to organise regularly and at least once every two years a Belgian piano competition where instruments of Steinway & Sons are used. In doing so, they want to achieve the following goals:

- Create a healthy competition, based on mutual respect.
- Show that young people have the right to enjoy top quality instruments and bring Steinway & Sons to the forefront as a symbol of quality, perfection, innovation, art, education, and historicity.
- Give children or teens the opportunity to play on quality instruments, provide them with a forum, offer them support (concert experience during and after the competition) and guidance, give them an experience for life, provide opportunities to international contacts (such as the International Steinway Festival in Hamburg).
- Embrace a constructive symbiosis between business and education, art and science.
- Allow and promote the learning and playing abilities for piano and similar disciplines.
- Organise activities, training sessions and seminars with keyboard instruments as the main theme.
- Organise concerts, lectures, exhibitions, and performances.
- Take care of all kinds of publications relating to all this.
- Organise recreational activities in which the members can actively or passively participate.

# COURSE OF THE COMPETITION

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## I. Procedure

1. There are no qualifying rounds. All candidates providing a properly completed entry form before the deadline (online or by post), paying the entry fee and submitting a programme that meets the requirements, can participate in the selection tests.
2. The number of candidates that are allowed to the selection tests can be restricted to 100. The first 100 candidates who register correctly are sure of their possibility to participate. The organizing committee has the right to withhold registrations that come in after the 100<sup>th</sup> registration. If this is the case, the candidate will be contacted, and the registration fee will be reimbursed.
3. The candidates will receive the exact time for their performance one week before the selection tests.
4. The selection tests will provide a maximum of 15 candidates for the final round.
5. The order in which the candidates will perform in the final round is determined alphabetically, more specifically by last name.
6. Both the selection tests and the final round are open to the public.
7. During the selection tests all candidates will get the opportunity to practice in a separate room one hour before their performance.
8. During the selection tests all candidates will get a maximum of 2 minutes to test the Steinway concert piano in the concert hall.
9. Before the finals all candidates will get five minutes to test the Steinway piano in the concert hall. They will all be assigned a specific time to do so by the competition organisation. There will also be enough instruments available for the candidates to prepare themselves fully for their performance.
10. All pieces must be played by memory.
11. Each candidate can freely decide whether to do reprises, but they must take that into account when indicating the duration of their programme.
12. The teacher cannot go on stage during the performance of his or her student.
13. The results of the selection tests will be released on the final day of the selection tests and on the website ([www.steinwaypiano.competition.be](http://www.steinwaypiano.competition.be)).
14. The results of the finals will be publicly announced on the evening of the finals.

## II. Calendar

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|-----------------------|---|
| 15. Sunday 31/12/2023 | Deadline for the entry forms  |
| Saturday 03/02/2024   | Selection tests Session 1, starting at 09.00 am (Auditorium Piano's Maene, Industriestraat 42, 8755 Ruselede) |
| Sunday 04/02/2024     | Selection tests Session 2, starting at 09.00 am (Auditorium Piano's Maene, Industriestraat 42, 8755 Ruselede) |
| Sunday 03/03/2024     | Finals, starting at 3.00 pm (Bozar, Henry Le Boeuf Hall, Ravensteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels)                  |

# CANDIDATES AND PROGRAMME

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## III. General

16. The competition is open to all young talents that have not reached the age of 19 on the day of the finals and that are domiciled in Belgium.
17. The candidates are split up into three categories (see “IV. Categories and Programme”).
18. Candidates (including finalists and winners) who participated in previous competitions are allowed to participate again. A first prize winner from a previous edition of the competition cannot compete again in the same category.
19. The prize where a first prize winner (first, second or third category) represents Belgium on the International Steinway Festival in Hamburg, can be won only once by one and the same candidate.
20. By participating in the competition, the candidates entitle the organisers of the competition to record all performances during the competition and make these performances accessible to the public through social media and other channels.

## IV. Categories and Programme

21. The finalists can play the same programme as they did at the selection test. However, they are also allowed to adjust the programme, providing it meets the requirements (see below).
22. Category 1: not having reached the age of 13 on the day of the finals (03/03/2024).
23. Category 2: not having reached the age of 16 on the day of the finals (03/03/2024).
24. Category 3: not having reached the age of 19 on the day of the finals (03/03/2024).
25. If a candidate exceeds the allowed duration during the selection test, the jury president may interrupt the candidate.
26. The programmes of the finals will be reviewed by the competition organisation. If the organisation believes that there is a genuine chance that the performance would exceed the permitted duration, the organisation will, in consultation with the candidate, make an adjustment to the programme (e.g. remove a piece from the programme).
27. Repertoire and maximum duration Category 1
  - Compulsory piece by J.S. Bach: small preludes or similar (only during selection tests, not the finals)
  - One or more pieces chosen by the participant
  - Maximum duration SELECTION TESTS: 6 minutes
  - Maximum duration FINALS: 7 minutes
28. Repertoire and maximum duration Category 2
  - Compulsory piece by J.S. Bach: two- or three-part invention (only during selection tests, not the finals)
  - One or more pieces chosen by the participant
  - Maximum duration SELECTION TESTS: 10 minutes
  - Maximum duration FINALS: 12 minutes
29. Repertoire and maximum duration Category 3
  - Compulsory piece by J.S. Bach: three-part invention or Prelude and Fugue from WTC (only during selection tests, not the finals)
  - One or more pieces chosen by the participant
  - Maximum duration SELECTION TESTS: 15 minutes
  - Maximum duration FINALS: 20 minutes

## V. Entry

30. To enter the competition, candidates should complete the online form on [www.steinwaypiano.competition.be](http://www.steinwaypiano.competition.be). Upon request, a candidate can receive a paper document for sending it by mail. In that case the candidate should contact the organisers of the competition (see Contact).
31. The entry fee amounts to €30.
32. The entry fee, the entry form, the programme and a copy of your ID card must be received by the competition organisation before the application deadline.
33. As soon as all the necessary documents have been received and the application deadline has expired, each candidate will receive a document with practical guidelines (where to present oneself, order of the candidates, practice time and location, etc.).
34. The organisers of the competition have the right to refuse a candidate if the latter does not meet the requirements mentioned in the rules.

# JURY

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## VI. Jury

35. At the suggestion of the board of the non-profit organisation, the organising committee will put together a judging panel with a chairman. The judging panel will include, but not be limited to, one prominent piano teacher from every Belgian music school.
36. The chairman will be assisted by a secretary, also appointed by the organising committee. The secretary will only have an administrative role. He or she will never exchange information about the artistic performances of the candidates or the scoring. He or she cannot influence the judging of the candidates under any circumstances.
37. The composition of the judging panel for the finals can be found on the website: [www.steinwaypianocompetition.be](http://www.steinwaypianocompetition.be).
38. The goal is to keep the composition of the finals judging panel for all selection tests.
39. The judging panel does not have any administrative role. No member of the judging panel, including the chairman, can have a mandate in the organising committee or the board of the competition.
40. No member of the judging panel is allowed to give points to a candidate who has been taught by him or her over the past three years, or to whom he or she is related up to the 4<sup>th</sup> degree.
41. Each member of the judging panel must make the following statement to the organisers of the competition:  
*As a member of the judging panel for the 2024 Steinway Youth Piano Competition, I declare having taken note of the terms and conditions of the competition. I will adhere strictly to these terms and conditions, and I declare that no candidate mentioned on the list of names provided to me, is related to me up to the 4<sup>th</sup> degree, or has been taught by me over the past 3 years (starting from the date of the finals). If that is the case, I mention the name/names of the involved candidate/candidates below.*  
..... is (was) my student/family.
42. Via the inscription-platform on the website, each candidate must make the following statement before 31/12/2023:  
*As a candidate for the 2024 Steinway Youth Piano Competition, I declare having taken note of the competition rules. I will adhere strictly to these rules, and I declare that no member of the judging panel mentioned on the list of names provided to me, is related to me up to the 4<sup>th</sup> degree, or has taught me over the past 3 years (starting from the date of the finals). If that is the case, I mention the name/names of the involved judge(s) below.*  
..... is (was) my teacher/family.
43. All members of the judging panel will receive the full list of admitted candidates one month before the selection tests.
44. The judging panel will vote by secret ballot.
45. The judges cannot inform each other on the scores they have given to the candidates.
46. At the end of each day of selection tests, there will be 45 min. during which candidates can meet the jury members and ask for feedback.
47. After the finals and the awards ceremony, the finalists will get the opportunity to briefly speak to the judges to get some feedback from them.

## VII. Chairman of the Judging Panel

48. The chairman will ensure the proper functioning of the judging panel. The chairman will not participate in the scoring.

49. The chairman ensures that the competition and the judging activities run according to the rules of the competition. The chairman has the coordinating task to obtain a final consensus on the scores given by the entire judging panel.
50. If a chairman cannot perform his task due to circumstances beyond one's control, the chairman of the board will appoint a worthy replacement.

## VIII. Procedures and Scoring

### A. Selection Tests

51. Before the selection test, all members of the judging panel will receive an assessment document containing the names of all candidates. The judges will score each candidate with a number between 0 and 100.
52. Once the assessment documents have been fully completed by the judges, they will only be handed to the chairman of the judging panel.
53. The chairman and the secretary of the judging panel jointly determine the average of the points for each candidate. Averages will be rounded off to whole numbers. Averages with 49 points after the decimal (0,49) or lower will be rounded down. Averages with 50 points after the decimal (0,50) or higher, will be rounded up.
54. The candidates are split up into categories.
55. Only candidates with an average score of 85 may proceed to the finals.
56. A maximum of 5 candidates per category (highest ranked) is allowed to move on to the finals.
57. If there exists an ex aequo between the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked candidate and any other candidate(s), then the jury will perform a revote (yes/no) for the involved candidates. The candidate with the most "yes" votes will be ranked highest. If the revote results again in an ex aequo, the chairman of the jury will come to a consensus with the jury.
58. If there are less than 15 finalists over all categories, than the chairman of the jury can take the initiative – together with the jury – to allow one extra candidate per category (6<sup>th</sup> candidate) for a place in the finals, as long as the total candidates for the finals over all categories does not go over 15. The extra selected candidate needs a minimum score of 85 to be granted a place in the finals.
59. Once the scoring is complete, no member of the judging panel can recall or change the scores.

### B. Finals

60. Before the finals, all members of the judging panel will receive an assessment document containing the names of all candidates. The judges will score each candidate with a number between 0 and 100.
61. Once the assessment documents have been fully completed by the judges, they will be handed to the chairman of the judging panel.
62. The chairman and the secretary of the judging panel jointly determine the average of the points for each candidate. Averages will be rounded off to whole numbers. Averages with 49 points after the decimal (0,49) or lower will be rounded down. Averages with 50 points after the decimal (0,50) or higher, will be rounded up.
63. The results of the selection tests don't count for the finals.
64. The candidates are split up into categories.
65. Only candidates with an average score of 90 are eligible to win first prize.
66. In case of a tie, the judging panel will take a new vote (yes/no) for the candidates involved. The candidate getting the most Yes votes will be ranked higher. If the revote results again in an ex aequo, the chairman of the jury will come to a consensus with the jury.
67. Once the scoring is complete, no member of the judging panel can recall or change the scores.



### C. Public Prize

68. Only the performances of the selection tests of candidates that are selected for the finals will be made public on YouTube.
69. Only finalists are eligible for the public prize.
70. The finalists will be ranked according to a result obtained as follows: total number of minutes their footage has been watched, divided by the total duration of their footage. The finalist ranked the highest at midnight the day before the finals, wins the public prize.

### D. Scoring

71. The judges are not allowed to exchange ideas about the candidates before the vote has been taken.
72. The votes will be counted under the supervision of the chairman and the secretary of the judging panel.
73. When a candidate hasn't scored points from a judge, his/her total score will be increased by the following value: the average score of the remaining judges, multiplied by the average of the points attributed to all candidates by the respective judge, divided by the average of the points attributed to all candidates by the other members of the judging panel.
74. If, either for the selection test or for the finals, a member of the judging panel attributes a score to one or more candidates that is more than 15 points higher or lower than the average of the points attributed by all judges (including the judge in question), that figure will automatically be reduced to the average score (including the score of the judge in question).
75. The voting and scoring are secret.

# PRIZES

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76. 11 main prizes will be awarded to the ranked finalists, as well as various other prizes to all finalists.
77. In accordance with the “Steinway Piano Competition Belgium” non-profit organisation’s mission (as above) the prize money of each winner will be divided into two equal (50/50) parts. One part is presented in cash. The remainder of the prize money can be used for all kinds of expenses and investments that will help the receiver to develop as a musician. The following activities are eligible (non-limitative list):
- The purchase of scores
  - Participation in a masterclass
  - The purchase of materials for music studies
  - Attending concerts (concert tickets)
  - Maintenance or repair of their instrument
  - Etc.
78. Before proceeding to any purchase/investment/..., the winner should contact the organising committee of the competition, so they can settle the payment directly. The winner can also pay the expenses him- or herself first and then ask the organising committee to reimburse the expenses (providing proof of their payment). However, this does not give the candidate any guarantee that the expenses, purchases or investments will be declared admissible.
79. The provisional part of the prize money must be withdrawn within a maximum term of 2 years after the finals.
80. Main prizes
- 1<sup>st</sup> prize Category 1: €1.000
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Category 1: €500
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Category 1: €250
  
  - 1<sup>st</sup> prize Category 2: €1.000
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Category 2: €500
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Category 2: €250
  
  - 1<sup>st</sup> prize Category 3: €1.000
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Category 3: €500
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Category 3: €250
  
  - One public prize for one of the finalists: €150
81. Prizes for all finalists
- Additional finalists’ concerts
82. After the finals and the awards ceremony, the finalists will get the opportunity to briefly speak to some of the judges in order to get some feedback from them.
83. All candidates (so not only finalists) will be invited to the finals to receive their diplomas and some Steinway-related gifts.

# GENERAL

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84. The Steinway Youth Piano Competition is organised by Steinway Piano Competition Belgium, a non-profit organisation.
85. The competition is led by the organising committee, appointed by the board.
86. The organising committee will watch over the application of the rules and the course of the competition.
87. If a candidate or judge believes the rules have been breached, he or she can lodge a complaint about this with the organising committee. However, the judging panel's decision is unanimous, final and irrefutable.
88. The organisation of the competition cannot be held liable for any physical or material damages that might result from participating in or attending the competition.
89. In cases of force majeure, the organizing committee has the right to make changes to the approach, the course and the rules of the competition or to cancel the competition (under force majeure is understood, but not limited to weather - and climatic conditions, lightning strike, flood, storm, war, riot, strike, pandemic, accident, fire, etc.).
90. If a candidate decides to withdraw his / her registration after the registration deadline, there is no obligation for the organizing committee to refund the registration fee to that candidate, regardless of the reason given by the candidate for this withdrawal.
91. By entering the competition, the candidate accepts the competition rules without prejudice.
92. In case of doubt, errors or ambiguities in these competition rules, the Dutch version of the competition rules will be decisive.

# CONTACT

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[www.steinwaypianocompetition.be](http://www.steinwaypianocompetition.be)

[contact@steinwaypianocompetition.be](mailto:contact@steinwaypianocompetition.be)

Account number: BE50 3631 6199 7518 (ING Bank, BIC: BBRUBEBB)