

THE
shean
 STRINGS
COMPETITION

Edmonton, Alberta

May 15th - 17th

2025

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 in **Edmonton** from **May 15 to 17, 2025** in Muttart Hall at the Alberta College Campus of MacEwan University.

COMPETITION WINNER

The winner of the Shean Strings 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**



REGULATIONS

1. The Shean 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 virtuoso piece. 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 with the exception of the sonata with piano.
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 every stage of the Competition will be final and not subject to appeal, review, or question.
12. The Shean Strings 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 in and will **NOT** be accepted electronically. The Competition Office cannot assume responsibility for any application lost in the mail.

REPERTOIRE REGULATIONS: VIOLIN

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 from the following list: Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák, Elgar, Glazunov, Mendelssohn, Paganini, Prokofiev, Saint-Saëns (*Concerto in b minor*, op. 61, no. 3), Sibelius, Tchaikovsky, or Wieniawski.
Note: Judicious cuts are acceptable for lengthy opening tutti.
2. Two contrasting movements of a solo Sonata or Partita (excluding the three Fugues and Chaconne) by J.S. Bach.
3. The first movement **ONLY** of a Sonata by Beethoven or Mozart (KV296 through 547), excluding KV402, 403 and 570.
4. A virtuoso or concert piece from the 19th or 20th Century.

II. Semi-final Round: DAY ONE – 55 minutes maximum; this includes all pauses, tuning, leaving the stage, et cetera... and **MUST** include the following (4 pieces **ONLY**):

1. A **complete** Sonata by Brahms, Debussy, Fauré, Franck, Ravel, Schubert (*Duo in A*, op. 162), or Schumann (*Sonata No. 1 in a minor*, op. 105).
Memorization is NOT required.
2. A virtuoso composition published in the 20th or 21st Century.
3. A solo Fugue or Chaconne by J.S. Bach.
4. Test Piece: *Caprice, op. 1, no. 5* by Nicolò Paganini.

NOTE: Compositions from the Preliminary Round CANNOT be repeated.

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.

REPERTOIRE REGULATIONS: VIOLA

- 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 from the following list: Bartók, Hindemith, Hoffmeister, Stamitz, or Walton.
Note: Judicious cuts are acceptable for lengthy opening tutti.
 2. Two contrasting movements of a solo Violoncello Suite (excluding the Preludes of Suites 3, 4, 5, and 6) by J.S. Bach.
 3. The first movement from Schubert's "*Arpeggione*" Sonata in a minor, D. 821.
 4. A virtuoso work from the 19th or 20th Century.

- II. **Semi-final Round: DAY ONE – 55 minutes maximum; this includes all pauses, tuning, leaving the stage, et cetera... and MUST include the following (4 pieces ONLY):**
 1. A **complete** Sonata by Brahms, Clarke, Shostakovich, Hindemith's Sonata, op. 11, no. 4, or Schumann's "*Märchenbilder*", op. 113.
Memorization is NOT required.
 2. A virtuoso composition published in the 20th or 21st Century.
 3. One of the following from J.S. Bach:
 - A Prelude from Suite 3, 4, 5, or 6
 - A Fugue from the Violin Sonatas
 - Chaconne from Partita No. 2
 4. Test Piece: Sonata, op. 25, no. 1, mvt. IV by Paul Hindemith.
NOTE: Compositions from the Preliminary Round CANNOT be repeated.

- 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.

REPERTOIRE REGULATIONS: VIOLONCELLO

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 from the following list: Barber, Boccherini, Dvořák, Elgar (including *Scherzo*), Haydn (*Concerto in D*), Lalo, Prokofiev (*Sinfonia concertante*), Saint-Saëns, or Schumann.
Note: Judicious cuts are acceptable for lengthy opening tutti.
2. Two contrasting movements of a solo Suite (excluding the Preludes of Suites 3, 4, 5, and 6) by J.S. Bach.
3. The first movement **ONLY** of a Sonata by Beethoven.
4. A virtuoso piece from the 19th or 20th Century.

II. Semi-final Round: DAY ONE – 55 minutes maximum; this includes all pauses, tuning, leaving the stage, et cetera... and **MUST** include the following **4 pieces ONLY**:

1. A **complete** Sonata by Brahms, Debussy, Franck, Prokofiev, Schubert, or Shostakovich.
Memorization is NOT required.
2. A virtuoso composition published in the 20th or 21st Century.
3. A Prelude from solo Suite Nos. 3, 4, 5 or 6 by J.S. Bach.
4. Test Piece: *Dance of the Elves, op. 39* by David Popper.

NOTE: Compositions from the Preliminary Round CANNOT be repeated.

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.**
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.



MacEwan
UNIVERSITY

CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

APPLICATION RULES

1. **No** repertoire changes will be allowed.
2. Order of competition shall be by lot.
3. Practice facilities will be available at the Alberta College Campus of MacEwan University.
4. Each competitor will be given 90 minutes practice time in Muttart Hall, Alberta College Campus of MacEwan University.
5. All applications, including CD audio discs, fee, birth certificate and completed typed forms **MUST ARRIVE** at the Competition Office **NO LATER** than **December 9, 2024**. There can be **NO** exception made for any applicant.
6. First place award winners are **INELIGIBLE** in subsequent competitions.

Mail completed application form to:

The Shean Strings 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 assisting artists will be the sole responsibility of the competitor.