

SSP Sea to Sky International Piano Competition 2026

Toronto Region only



Believe In Music, Legends Begin Here

General Information

The competition is a musical competition held annually for performers age 4 and older. Our goal is to provide the opportunities for artists of all ages to perform and explore their talents in piano performance.

There will be two rounds in the Competition:

First Round Audition

- Candidates may register online for In-person audition starting September 14, 2026
- Link: https://sspcompetition_tor_202611.eventbrite.ca



- QR code:
- Registration Deadline: **November 8, 2026**; No late application will be accepted.
- Application Fees: **\$150 CAD for solo (non-refundable)**
- In-person Audition: **November 28 – 29, December 5 – 6, 2026**
Audition Centre: **Steinway Piano Gallery Toronto, 2651 John St. #8, Markham**
- Results published: **The week of December 11, 2026**
- Award Presentation: **December 15 / 16 / 17, 2026** (Certificates and trophies will be presented at the Honor Concert to all winners)
- Honor Concert for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place winners: **January 19, 20 & 21, 2026 at 2651 John St. #8, Markham, Steinway Piano Gallery Toronto.**

All contestants will receive the competition schedule via email by November 16, 2026

Winners' Concert at New York Carnegie Hall

- 1st & 2nd Place winners will be invited to perform at New York Carnegie Hall.
- Carnegie Hall Weill's Hall Performance Date: March 16 & 17, 2027
- Concert Fees: \$720 CAD for piano solo
- Concert fees will include 4 free tickets for guests and a photo link to download your photos.
- Certificates and medals will be presented at the end of the Winners' Concert to all participating winners.
- Candidates who have achieved first or second place at the competition and performed three events (from different years) will receive a Letter of Recommendation for College/Universities applications. Carnegie Hall winners' concert.

Competition Guidelines

Competition Categories

SSP Sea to Sky International Piano Competition is open to Piano Soloist aged 4 and above. Participants should register according to their age in the following groups as of November 8, 2026.

- 6 years old and under
- 7-9 years old
- 10-13 years old
- 14-18 years old
- 18 years old and above

Each age group will be divided into the following three competing categories using Royal Conservatory Examination grading system:

- **Junior:** Beginner to RCM Grade 4 level; time limits: 3 minutes and under
- **Intermediate:** RCM Grade 5–Grade 9; time Limits: 5 minutes and under
- **Advanced:** RCM Grade 10 and above; time Limits: 8 minutes and under

The organizing committee has the final right to arrange and adjust the categories and classes at registrations.

Repertoire Guidelines

- **Only One selection** of Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Modern work can be chosen and must performed from memory (original compositions, arrangements, simplified editions, popular music and/or non-classical music from method books are not acceptable).

*Please note that **ONLY ONE** movement can be selected from Sonata/Sonatinas; **or one selection** from partita, suites; or Bach's Prelude and Fugue.*

- One composition per application will be accepted.
- Participants may apply as many times for audition. Each time is considered a new entry and needs to submit the appropriate fees and a different repertoire.
- No changes in the submitted repertoire may be made once a contestant is admitted.
- No repeats are allowed at the audition performances.
- "Shortened" version won't be accepted.
- Performance at the audition that exceed time limits for each category will be asked to conclude the performance and marks will be deducted.

Committee have the rights to adjust the categories and classes at registrations.

Audition Guidelines

- All auditions are in-person.
- All participants must wear **formal attire**.
- Participants must prepare a copy of your **original performance score** for the judge at the audition.
- Participant with rare repertoire may be asked to submit scores online before audition.
- The 1st and 2nd place winners will be invited to the Winners' Concert at Carnegie Hall, New York.

Winners' Concert at Carnegie Hall

- Winners' Concerts will be held at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, 154 West 57th Street, New York, USA.
- Date & Time: March 16 & 17, 2027
- Winners may choose to play a different repertoire from the audition for the winners' concert at Carnegie Hall; however, the **repertoire should not exceed 4 minutes**.

Concert Fee includes 4 complimentary tickets

- Certificates and medals will be awarded at the end of the Winners' Concert. Please note that Certificates will NOT be sent via mail or before the concert finished.
- A photo link will be provided for all participants to download their pictures.

Please note that the use of cameras, camcorders or any audio/visual recording devices is strictly forbidden at the concerts at Carnegie Hall.

Please note: All registration fees and Winners' Concert fees are non-refundable.

Judging/Marking Guidelines

Participants will be judged according to the following criteria, using listed scale for the following 3 categories, for a total score of 100.

• Musicality and artistry: (40 Marks)

Ability to demonstrate an appropriate understanding of the musical aspects of performance. Be able to demonstrate the understanding of the style of the chosen repertoire and attention to details such as articulations, dynamics, touch and shaping.

• Technical mastery: (40 Marks)

Ability to comfortably navigate the technical challenges of the literature. Performance should be free of major note or fingering errors and be able to utilize an appropriate tempo and, when required, clean pedaling.

• Stage presence: (20 Marks)

Ability to demonstrate a high level of professionalism throughout their performance, displaying both confidence as well as charisma. This includes appropriate performance attire.

First Place Winners: 88 - 100

Second Place Winners: 78 - 87

Third Place Winners: 70 – 77

Honorary Mentions: 60 - 69