

2026 UNCSA Piano Weekend

COMPETITION RULES

1. The competition is open to students in two DIVISIONS: junior and senior. Students who have not yet had their 14th birthday by November 14 will compete in the junior division; students older than 14 but younger than 18 on November 14 will compete in the senior division. Contestants' age is their sole basis for eligibility – students may attend any school, or study privately, and their place of residence plays no role in their eligibility. Previous 1st-prize winners of UNCSA Piano Weekend Competition are ineligible to compete in the same division. UNCSA piano students are ineligible to participate.
2. All contestants must have their applied teacher's approval. We reserve the right to contact the teacher for verification.
3. Each contestant is eligible, but not required, to compete in all three categories: Baroque, Classical and Chopin.
4. Maximum performance time for each category is five minutes; accordingly, the maximum performance time for a contestant entering in all three categories is 15 minutes.
5. Contestants competing in multiple categories will perform all of their repertoire at once, in a single performance.
6. Competition repertoire will consist of any Baroque work (1600-1750), including separate movements from suites, single preludes or fugues from the Well-Tempered Clavier, works by Handel, Scarlatti or any other well-known Baroque composer. For the Classical period (1750-1828), any sonata movement, a stand-alone work or variations, will be acceptable. For the Chopin category, any work by Chopin not exceeding the time limit is acceptable.
7. All performances are from memory.
8. No repertoire changes are allowed once the registration is submitted.
9. The number of contestants in each division may be limited to the first 10 applicants unless the chosen repertoire leaves enough time to accept more. Contestants will be notified of their status once the final roster is finalized.
10. The order of performance will be alphabetical by last name.
11. No Piano Weekend participant will be allowed to compete without attending the entire Piano Weekend. Please email us with all schedule questions prior to mailing the application.
12. The jury will consist of UNCSA faculty and invited guest judges. The jury's decisions are final. The jury reserves the right not to award all prizes. The jury may award multiple prizes to the same contestant.

13. In both categories, 1st prize winners will receive \$100, and 2nd prize winners, \$50, in each of three categories: Baroque, Classical, and Chopin.
14. Selected 1st prize winners will appear in the Boris Berman master class. The selection is done by UNCSA faculty in consultation with the Guest Artist and does not constitute a separate award.
15. The results will be announced at the conclusion of the competitions. All contestants should be present at that time to be eligible for prizes. Tax forms will be made available to all prize winners on November 14, and every effort will be made to obtain completed forms on the same date.

For all further inquiries, contact shteinbergd@uncsa.edu

UNCSA PIANO PROGRAM SCORECARD

- Enrolled students from Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Texas, Georgia and many more, as well as from Canada, China and Hong Kong;
- Students won top prizes in most North Carolina competitions, including NCMTA, Euterpe, ECU Piano Competition, and the Fayetteville, Winston Salem and Charlotte Symphonies' Concerto competitions;
- Students received scholarships to study at Curtis Eastman, Peabody, Oberlin College, Indiana University, Cincinnati College-Conservatory, and many other top programs;
- Alumni performed at Alice Tully and Carnegie Hall in New York, won prizes at the Sendai International competition, the Chopin Competition in Malaysia and MTNA National Finals, and were employed by the Tanglewood Festival and the Nanjing Normal University in China.
- Alumni went on to study with such legendary teachers as Jerome Lowenthal, Gilbert Kalish and Anton Nel.

UNCSA School of Music is a unique state-of-the-art conservatory offering intensive training and career development in music performance and composition since 1965. How are we unique?

- With selective admissions, a robust scholarship program, and 7-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio, we function like a private conservatory, yet are affiliated with the highly respected University of North Carolina system.
- We offer a world-class artist faculty and an ample array of distinguished visiting artists to inspire and guide our students.
- Magnificent facilities, including Watson Chamber Music Hall with state-of-the-art acoustics, are learning laboratories for students.
- We offer superb training and a well-rounded education in Post-Master's Studies, Graduate Studies, Undergraduate Studies and High School Studies programs.
- Our campus is vibrant with other arts: dance, design and production, drama, filmmaking, and visual arts.

With all these elements, there's no place else like the School of the Arts for musical artists to learn and grow!

...preparing the artists of the future