
The Spokane Piano Competition

Entering a Live Performance Event During Uncertain Times

For the last few months – and continuing into the future for an unknown time – live events and performances are being delayed, cancelled or converted to online formats. As many students, parents and teachers know, the delays and cancellations and conversions are not only disappointing but can cause students to no longer strive to do their best – to practice and prepare with their full heart, mind and spirit. Competitions and performance events provide structure and goals with which to measure progress and growth, and for music, live performances are the only way to truly hear and measure technical skill, artistic nuance and personal interpretation of the composer’s intent.

Recorded or online formats such as YouTube, Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, etc. cannot reproduce the sound of a live performance, and while some students and teachers are fortunate to have access to high-quality recording or broadcasting equipment – enough so that at least a *part* of the nuance and artistry can be distinguished – that level of equipment and technology is not widely available to a majority of students.

The SPC Mission Statement:

Providing a Platform for Pianists to Advance Their Musical Study and Achieve Artistic Growth

*As the director of the Spokane Piano Competition, it is my responsibility to do everything possible to provide a high-quality, **live** event which will fulfill our mission statement, and do so in a safe environment with little to no pandemic risk to the students, parents and teachers. With the assistance and coordination of the Steinway Piano Gallery owners, manager and staff, the SPC will provide each student with the opportunity to perform on a Steinway grand piano, in a recital hall designed to bring out the best in every performance.*

How will we do this?

Regional Safety: Spokane County has a much lower incidence of virus infections than many of the other urban locations in the Pacific Northwest.

Social Distancing: The Steinway Piano Gallery follows the Washington State social distancing guidelines with spacious areas between the registration desk, warmup and performance rooms. The recital hall can easily accommodate the judge, assistant, student, parents and teacher without over-crowding and both the warmup and recital areas can be quickly cleaned and sanitized in-between students.

Masks and Temperature Checks: Depending on the requirements and recommendation by the Washington State and Spokane County Departments of Health and the CDC, the SPC may be doing temperature checks and providing masks – if needed – to ensure that each person attending is as safe as possible.

Metered Attendance: Also, depending on the current state of the virus and the government recommendations, it will be easy for the SPC to meter and limit the number of people in the building at any given time.

Other Factors: While it may become necessary to change the format of the award ceremonies, students will still have the opportunity to perform for the judge and receive – within minutes – their Score Card and Written Score Explanation. Depending on the number of pieces and length of the music, students will be in and out of the competition in a short period of time.

It is impossible to predict what may be going on in early November in regard to school, travel, hotels, restaurants, shopping and other venues and activities. Each family and teacher will have to decide if they feel the opportunity to perform live for a judge on a Steinway piano, will be worth the effort, time and expense. But with so few live performance events occurring in 2020, I hope that you are encouraged by the above information and will plan to enter this year's Spokane Piano Competition!

The Spokane Piano Competition **WILL BE CANCELLED** if the regional, state and national agencies determine it is necessary to return to a "stay-at-home" order. **ALL ENTRANTS WILL RECEIVE A FULL REFUND**, or you may choose to apply the entry fee to the following year.

2020 Competition Dates:

Wednesday, November 4: Youth Division
Thursday, November 5: Senior Division
Friday/Saturday, November 6 – 7: Junior Division

Registration Opens:

Monday, August 10, 2020

For more information:

Website – <https://spokanepiano.com/>

Email – spokanepiano@gmail.com

Text or Call – 509.995.5676

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