Bach Society Orchestra
2015-2016 Concerto Competition

Purpose:

The Bach Society Orchestra’s annual Concerto Competition is devoted to promoting and recognizing soloistic excellence among Harvard’s undergraduate student body.

Eligibility:

The Bach Society Orchestra’s 2015-16 Concerto Competition is open to all and only Harvard undergraduate instrumentalists and vocalists, excepting previous winners.

Requirements:

Applicants must enter with a concerto or other solo piece subject to the following restrictions:

1. The piece may be none of the following:
   A. Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto No. 1
   B. Listz’s Piano Concerto No. 1
   C. Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No. 1
   D. Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra
   E. Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto in E Minor
   F. Beethoven’s Emperor Concerto

2. The piece’s instrumentation should suit the Bach Society Orchestra (generally 2-2-2-2/2-2-2-2/2-2-2-0 tmp, hp, str, though other combinations may be considered). Should any questions arise regarding the appropriateness of a piece for the Concerto Competition, please contact Sasha Scolnik-Brower (ascolnikbrower@college.harvard.edu), the Bach Society’s Music Director, before applying.

3. Applicants must enter the competition with the piece they plan on performing should they win.

Auditions:

The first round of auditions will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2015, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in Paine Hall. Applicants will be asked to play approximately 20 – 30 minutes of music. While applicants will not necessarily be asked to perform an entire piece, they should be prepared to do so. Piano accompaniment for the first round is highly recommended for this round. There will be a second round of auditions if and only if the judges for the first round determine that multiple applicants are approximately equally qualified; the date of the second round will be determined after adjudication of the first round has been completed. In the event that there is a second round of auditions, finalists will be asked to perform their entire piece with piano accompaniment.

Rules:
1. Prospective applicants must submit an application by 5:00 PM on Saturday, October 10, 2015 via the online form. Incomplete applications may disqualify an applicant from competing; late applications will not be accepted.

2. Entrants must provide three copies of the entire piano-reduced score for the judges on the night of each round. Failure to bring these scores may disqualify an entrant from competing.

3. The judges reserve the right to stop an entrant during his/her performance for any reason in both the preliminary and final round.

4. The judges’ decisions are uncontestable and final.

Auditions:

The First Prize Winner will perform his/her selected piece with the Bach Society Orchestra in Paine Hall on Sunday, November 15, 2015. Additional honorary prizes may be awarded as the judges see fit.

Questions:

General questions about the competition should be addressed to the Competitions Coordinator, Alex Bartlett (abartlett@college.harvard.edu); questions regarding the appropriateness of a piece for the Concerto Competition should be addressed to the Bach Society’s Music Director, Sasha Scolnik-Brower (ascolnikbrower@college.harvard.edu).

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