

The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies
at San José State University
and the American Beethoven Society

present the

38TH ANNUAL

Celia Mendez
**Young
Pianist's
Beethoven
Competition**

Saturday, March 30, 2024

Competition

9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

*San José State University Concert Hall
Music Building, SJSU Main Campus, CA 95192*

Masterclass

2:00–4:00 p.m.

Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies

Following the competition final, the three winners will be invited to participate in a workshop at the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies, led by fortepianist **Eric Zivian** (co-founder and artistic director, Valley of the Moon Festival). The participants will make use of the Beethoven Center's historic keyboard collection and will be coached on historically informed approaches to performing Beethoven's piano music.



The **Young Pianist's Beethoven Competition** is named after **Celia Mendez**, a piano teacher and musicologist formerly from San José, California, who conceived of and founded the competition in 1987. In the spring of 2007, the Executive Board of the American Beethoven Society unanimously voted to name the competition after her in honor and recognition of her inspirational work in support of Beethoven's music and the many fine young pianists and their teachers throughout the state.

Awards

Three winners will be selected from the six finalists. Each winner will receive a monetary prize of \$250. The three other finalists will each receive a \$100 prize. Upon request, finalists residing outside the San Francisco Bay area will be provided with accommodations. In addition, finalists from Southern California will be provided with airfare (\$200 maximum).

Preliminary audition

A screening panel of judges will select six finalists and one alternate to participate in the final competition. The six finalists and alternate will be contacted on **Monday, March 4, 2024**. The names of the six winners and one alternate will be posted on the American Beethoven Society's website (americanbeethovensociety.org) on **Tuesday, March 5, 2024**. Comments from the preliminary judges will be emailed to all contestants on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024**.

Selection criteria

The three winners will be chosen on the criteria of emotional expressiveness, individuality of interpretation, and stylistic understanding of how to perform Baroque works and Beethoven's music, which contains both Classical and Romantic styles. Emotional expressiveness will be valued higher than technical proficiency. Contestants are encouraged to study and/or perform from a critical edition.

Committee

Erica Buurman (Beethoven Center director, competition chair); Natalya Lundtvedt, Markus Pawlik, & Omri Shimron (preliminary judges)

Finals Judges

Tamami Honma (Cal Arte Ensemble & Chamber Orchestra/Stanford University), Nicholas Mathew (U.C. Berkeley), and Lino Rivera (St. Mary's College of California).

Special thanks

This competition is made possible through the generous support of the Horace Dodge Endowment Fund, Ellen Tryba Chen, Celia Mendez, and the American Beethoven Society.

ENTRY FORM

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Eligibility

Open to all California residents attending high school (grades 9-12) in the 2023–2024 school year.

Repertory

1. J. S. Bach. Any prelude and fugue from The Well-tempered Clavier, Books 1 or 2.
2. Beethoven. Any complete piano sonata from Opus 2, no. 1 onward, excluding Opus 49, nos. 1 and 2.

Application requirements

Applications must include:

- A completed official entry form.
- An unedited digital audio recording (no videos will be accepted) of the works chosen from the required repertory played by the applicant.

The recording may be submitted on a USB or via email at beethovencenter@sjsu.edu. The application will not be considered complete until the application form and registration fee check are received.

- A non-refundable registration fee of \$50, payable to the American Beethoven Society.

Past winners are not eligible to participate.

Deadline

All applications must be received at the Beethoven Center by **5:00 p.m. Friday, February 16, 2024**. In order to be fair to all contestants, late applications will not be considered.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (_____) _____

EMAIL _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____

GRADE _____

NAME OF PIANO TEACHER _____

ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PIANO TEACHER

MUSICAL AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES (ADD ATTACHMENT IF NEEDED)

I hereby state that I am submitting an unedited audio (not video) recording of a J. S. Bach prelude and fugue and a complete Beethoven piano sonata.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

REPERTORY

J.S. Bach. Well-tempered Clavier. Book _____ Prelude and Fugue _____

Ludwig van Beethoven. Sonata no. _____, Opus _____, (no.) _____

Enclosed is my check for the entry fee of \$50, made payable to the American Beethoven Society

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE _____

Return form with digital recording (by email OR on a USB) and check to:

The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0171

COMPETITION HISTORY AND INFORMATION
americanbeethovensociety.org

Inquiries may be sent to
beethovencenter@sjsu.edu

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE BEETHOVEN CENTER
BY 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024**