

The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2025

The Competition is sponsored by the Freemasons of Ireland Girls and Boys Fund and supported by RTÉ lyric fm.

The Patrons are Séamus Crimmins, Dearbhla Collins, John Keeley, Eamonn Lawlor and John Rowden.

The Semi-final and Final of the Competition will take place in the Freemasons' Hall, 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin D02 HK50, from 9th-11th October 2025, before an International Jury, chaired by Séamus Crimmins.

The International Jury are Séamus Crimmins (Chairman), Jonathan Aasgaard, Alan Buribayev, Mary Dullea, Beata Klatka and Brian O'Rourke.

Competitors selected by their colleges will perform at the Semi-finals and four of these will then be chosen by the Jury to go on to the Final.

The Semi-finals on Thursday, 9th October 2024 and the Final on Saturday, 11th October 2024 are open to the public.

COMPETITION RULES

1. The Competition is open to instrumentalists in the following categories:

- Keyboard (piano, organ, harpsichord, and classical accordion)
- Strings (violin, viola, cello, double-bass, concert harp, classical guitar)
- Woodwind (flute, recorder, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon)
- Brass (French Horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, euphonium)
- Percussion. (Excluding Timpani, *and subject to space restrictions*)

(If any Competitor is in doubt as to whether a particular instrument from any of these groups of musical families but not specifically detailed here, is acceptable or not, they must contact the Artistic Director, Séamus Crimmins, who will give a ruling on the matter)

2. The Cash Prizes are as follows:

- *Presented by the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland*
1st Prize: € 8,000, 2nd Prize: € 5,000, 3rd Prize: € 3,000, 4th Prize: € 2,000
- *Presented by Mrs Geraldine O'Sullivan (in memory of her son, Conrad)*
The Conrad O'Sullivan Memorial Prize: €1,000 for the best performance by a wind or brass player in the Competition
- *Presented by Mary Beattie (in memory of her late husband John Vallery)*
The John Vallery Memorial Prize €1,000, for the best performance by a string player in the Competition.

3. Competitors must be full time students for the college year 2024-2025, pursuing a Degree in Music Performance at Undergraduate, Postgraduate or Doctoral Level, or a Post Graduate Diploma in Music Performance at the following Music Institutions in Ireland:

- The Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin
- The TU Dublin Conservatoire
- The MTU Cork School of Music, Cork
- The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick (MA in Classical String Performance)
- Faculty of Music & Sonic Arts, Queens University, Belfast

NB. If a registered student of one of the above Colleges for the academic year 2024-2025 is attending a College/University outside Ireland for the year on an Erasmus

exchange, they are eligible to compete as they remain registered students of their respective Colleges. However, visiting students on an Erasmus exchange from countries outside Ireland are not eligible, as they remain registered students with their own Colleges and are only attending courses in the respective Irish College.

4. Students who have graduated from any of the above colleges with a Primary, Post Primary or Doctoral Degree in Music Performance, or a Post Graduate Diploma in Music Performance, and are full time students at colleges anywhere outside Ireland in the 2024-2025 academic year, studying for a Postgraduate or Doctoral Degree in Music Performance, or a Post Graduate Diploma in Music Performance, are eligible to compete.
5. **Competitors must not have reached 28 years of age before 1st October 2025.**
6. The format for the Competition is that each of the above Colleges will, at the end of the academic year 2024-2025, choose students to put forward for the Semi-finals of the Competition on 9th October 2025. The Music Colleges named in (3) above may each enter up to a maximum of four Semi-finalists. The criteria and method of choosing their students for entry is to be decided solely by each of the Colleges.
7. **The Closing Date for the submission by the Colleges of the names of the students chosen by the Colleges to go forward to the Semi-finals of the Competition is 4.00pm on Friday, 27th June 2025. Completed entry forms (with biographies and pictures) must be emailed to the General Administrator (ifym@freemason.ie) by that date and time.**
8. The names and details of each of the students must be submitted by the College on the Competition Entry Form and this must be electronically signed by each student, **and the relevant College Authority**
9. In the Semi-final round of the Competition each recitalist will present a programme of between 18 to 20 minutes music. The choice of repertoire is open. Programmes should be well balanced and represent a variety of musical styles and sensibilities. Each of the four Finalists will present programmes of between 25 and 30 minutes of music. Semi-final programmes may be retained in whole or in part in the Final and supplemented by music which affirms depth of individual musicianship, artistic achievement, and potential.
NB: If a competitor chooses their additional piece from a set of pieces such as Preludes, Scherzi, Studies etc, by Bach, Debussy, Chopin, or other composers, please note that each such piece from the set counts as ONE piece. Two, three or more pieces from a set cannot be arbitrarily grouped together and submitted as one piece. An exception of course is a movement/s from a Sonata or suchlike piece. If any Competitor is in doubt as to the eligibility of a piece they must contact the Artistic Director, Séamus Crimmins (contact details at the end of these Rules), who will give a written ruling on the matter.
10. There will be penalties for programmes which are unacceptably over time.
11. The Official Pianist for the Competition is Dearbhla Brosnan.
Those using the Official Pianist will have a rehearsal with her in a rehearsal room at Freemasons Hall, and in addition, a short acoustic rehearsal in the Grand Lodge Room, for the Semi-final and the Final.
12. Competitors may bring their own accompanist if they so wish but they must pay any fee and expenses for this accompanist themselves.
13. Pianists will have a full rehearsal in the Grand Lodge Room on the piano on which they will be performing for the Semi-final and the Final.
14. Competitors not using the Official Pianist, or not needing an accompanist, will be offered a short acoustic rehearsal in the Grand Lodge Room. If they wish to avail of

facilities for a private rehearsal as well, in a rehearsal room in Freemasons Hall, for the Semi-final or Final, they may request this on their entry form.

15. There is no entry fee for the Competition.
16. Possible future concert and/or broadcasting engagements will be offered to the First Prize-winner and other Prize-winners.
- 17. We are unable to accept entries from previous First Prize-Winners of the Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year Competition. No competitor is eligible to compete more than twice in the Competition.**
18. The final arbiters in respect of any interpretation of these Rules shall be the Artistic Director and the General Administrator
19. Rights to any Competition performance, whether broadcast, televised, recorded or filmed, in any manner whatsoever, belong exclusively to The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland, and no fee is, or shall be deemed, payable to the Competitor or the College or any other person or firm in respect of these Competition performances or any broadcasts, recordings, transmissions or films, and the right to reproduce, or licence any broadcasts, recordings, transmissions or films belongs exclusively to the Sponsors

The postal address and other contact details for the Competition are:

Music Competition, Freemasons' Hall, 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin D02 HK50

Freemasons Hall Telephone: +353 (0)1 676 1337

Competition Website: www.freemasonmusic.ie

General Administrator Direct Telephone: David Robinson: +44 (0)7584 259 668

General Administrator Direct E-mail: davidrobinson@freemason.ie

Artistic Director Direct Telephone: Séamus Crimmins: +353 (0)87 249 9715

Artistic Director Direct E-Mail: seamus.crimmins@gmail.com