



THE CLIBURN

2020 CLIBURN AMATEUR COMPETITION JURY & FESTIVAL ELEMENTS ANNOUNCED

The quadrennial event, open to non-professional pianists age 35 and older, will take place May 24–30, 2020, in Fort Worth, Texas. Ralph Votapek, gold medalist of the First Cliburn Competition in 1962, to serve as jury chairman. Final Round performances with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and conductor Damon Gupton.

“A celebration of music, and the people who have to make music, no matter what.”
–The Boston Globe

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FORT WORTH, Texas, September 20, 2019 – The Cliburn announces the jury for the eighth edition of the **Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition**, for non-professional pianists age 35 and older, taking place May 24–30, 2020, in Fort Worth, Texas, at Bass Performance Hall and Van Cliburn Recital Hall. The 48 pianists invited to compete, as well as 24 additional non-competing festival participants, will be chosen through online applications ([online now and due January 16, 2020](#)), including a 15–20 minute video audition. Competitors will be announced March 12, 2020.

Ralph Votapek, gold medalist of the First Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 1962, will serve as jury chairman.

2020 AMATEUR COMPETITION JURY

Ralph Votapek, jury chairman (United States)

Alessandro Deljavan (Italy)

Leila Getz (Canada)

Valery Kuleshov (Russia)

Carol Leone (United States)

Alex McDonald (United States)

Pamela Mia Paul (United States)

New this year, an additional **24 pianists will be selected as non-competing festival participants**, for a total of 72 pianists. In lieu of competing, Festival Participants will play up to 15 minutes for comments from jurors. All

invited pianists will also have expanded festival opportunities, including a variety of public performances; a practical seminar on repertoire, practice, and performance techniques; four-hand and chamber readings with professional musicians; and a host of social events where they can form lasting relationships with people from around the world who share their same passion.

The **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra** will perform with each of six finalists under the baton of acclaimed conductor **Damon Gupton**. **Select Competition performances will be webcast live at [Cliburn.org](https://www.cliburn.org).**

TO VIEW THE APPLICATION AND FULL REQUIREMENTS, [CLICK HERE](#).

Inaugurated in 1999, the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition was the first event of its kind in the United States. Hailed by the Boston Globe as “a celebration of music, and the people who have to make music no matter what,” the contest highlights the importance of music-making in everyday life and provides a forum for musicians age 35 and older who do not perform, teach, or compose piano music for their primary professional pursuit or financial benefit. The quadrennial competition brings together the best amateur pianists from around the world for seven days of performances, symposia, and social events.

[Download hi-res photos of the 2020 Cliburn Amateur Competition Jury.](#)

JURY BIOS



Ralph Votapek, jury chairman



Alessandro Deljavan



Leila Getz



Valery Kuleshov



Carol Leone



Alex McDonald



Pamela Mia Paul

ABOUT THE EIGHTH CLIBURN INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR PIANO COMPETITION

KEY DATES

February 22, 2019—Online applications open

January 16, 2020—Applications due

March 12, 2020—Competitors announced

May 24, 2020—Amateur Competition begins

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITORS & PARTICIPANTS

- \$125 application fee
- Online application and 15–20 minute video of repertoire of their choosing

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be aged 35 or over by May 24, 2020.

- Applicants may not perform, teach, or compose piano music primarily for professional pursuit or financial benefit.
- Previous first-prize winners of the Cliburn Amateur Competition (formerly the International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs) are not eligible.

ROUNDS & REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

May 24–26, 2020—Preliminary Round (Van Cliburn Recital Hall)

48 competitors will each present a solo recital not to exceed 15 minutes in length, of repertoire of their choosing.

May 27–28, 2020—Semifinal Round (Van Cliburn Recital Hall)

20 competitors will each present a solo recital not to exceed 28 minutes in length, of repertoire of their choosing.

May 30, 2020—Final Round (Bass Performance Hall)

6 competitors will each perform one concerto movement, selected from the list below, with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and conductor Damon Gupton.

BACH Concerto in D Minor, BWV 1052 (I, III)
 BEETHOVEN Concerto No. 1 in C Major, op. 15 (I, III)
 BEETHOVEN Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major, op. 19 (I, III)
 BEETHOVEN Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, op. 37 (I, III) (**NEW**)
 BEETHOVEN Concerto No. 4 in G Major, op. 58 (III) (**NEW**)
 BEETHOVEN Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major, op. 73 (III)
 GRIEG Concerto in A Minor, op. 16 (I, III) (**NEW**)
 MENDELSSOHN Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, op. 25 (I, III)
 MOZART Concerto No. 9 in E-flat Major, K. 271 (I, III)
 MOZART Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467 (I, III)
 MOZART Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488 (I, III)
 PROKOFIEV Concerto No. 3 in C Major, op. 26 (I, II, III) (**NEW**)
 SAINT-SAËNS Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, op. 22 (I, II, III)
 SAINT-SAËNS Piano Concerto No. 5 in F Major, op. 103 (I, II, III)
 SCHUMANN Concerto in A Minor, op. 54 (I, III)
 SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Major, op. 102 (I, III)
 TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor, op. 23 (III) (**NEW**)

NON-COMPETING FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS (NEW THIS YEAR)

Up to 24 pianists will be selected as non-competing festival participants. They will play up to 15 minutes for comments from jurors (recitals will be free and open to the public) and participate in other activities and festival events offered to the competitors. Participants must also submit a full application.

ABOUT THE CLIBURN

The Cliburn advances classical piano music throughout the world. Its international competitions,

education programs, and concert series embody an enduring commitment to artistic excellence and the discovery of new artists. Established in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1962, the quadrennial **Van Cliburn International Piano Competition** (sixteenth edition, May 28–June 12, 2021) remains the most visible expression of that mission and is, as always, committed to its original ideals of supporting and launching the careers of emerging artists, ages 18–30. It shares the transformative powers of music with a wide global audience, through fully-produced webcasts and by providing comprehensive career management and concert bookings to its winners. Rounding out its mission, the Cliburn also produces the **Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival** for exceptional 13- to 17-year-old pianists (third edition, May–June 2023), and the **Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition** for outstanding non-professional pianists age 35 and older (eighth edition, May 24–30, 2020).

Over a four-year cycle, the Cliburn contributes to North Texas' cultural landscape with over 170 classical music performances for **150,000 attendees** through competitions, free community concerts, and its signature **Cliburn Concerts** series at Bass Performance Hall, the Kimbell Art Museum Piano Pavilion, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and Scat Jazz Lounge. It presents 1,000 **Cliburn in the Classroom** in-school, interactive music education programs for more than 200,000 area elementary students. During the same time period, it garners the world's attention with **over eight million** visits from 170 nations for live concert and competition webcasts; **300 concerts** worldwide booked for competition winners; more than **5,000 news articles** about the Cliburn and its winners; and regular national radio broadcasts to **245 public radio stations**. [Cliburn.org](https://cliburn.org)

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