



THE CLIBURN

**APPLICANTS FOR THE 2020 CLIBURN AMATEUR COMPETITION TOTAL 205
PIANISTS, AGE 35 TO 78, FROM 32 COUNTRIES**

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

Contact:

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FORT WORTH, Texas, January 21, 2020 – A total of 205 non-professional pianists, age 35 to 78, representing 32 countries, have submitted applications for the eighth edition of the **Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition**. This marks the largest number of applications and most countries represented for the Cliburn Amateur Competition.

Applications closed January 16, 2020 and, a selection committee is now in the process of choosing 48 competitors and 24 additional festival participants from the impressive applicant pool, through online applications and video submissions, which are 15 to 20 minutes in length. **Competitors and non-competing festival participants will be announced March 12, 2020.**

The Cliburn is also pleased to announce that there will be a fully-produced, multicamera **webcast** of the Semifinal Round (May 27 & 28, 2020) and Final Round (May 30, 2020). The webcast will stream at Cliburn.org and will also be available on YouTube, Vimeo, and Facebook Live.

The Amateur Competition highlights the importance of music-making in everyday life, bringing together the world's best non-professional pianists age 35 and older for seven days of performances, symposia, and social events. The Competition will take place **May 24–30, 2020**, in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, with the Preliminary & Semifinal Rounds at **Van Cliburn Recital Hall** (330 East 4th Street) and the grand finale at **Bass Performance Hall** (4th and Calhoun Streets) with the **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of **Damon Gupton**. All rounds are open to the public, as are many of the festival events. We hope you'll join us for this truly inspiring, international event, where everyday people become stars of the stage. **Tickets are available at Cliburn.org or by calling the box office at 817.212.4280.**

APPLICANT POOL

The 32 countries represented by the 205 Amateur Competition applicants include (in alphabetical order): Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States.

The 124 men and 81 women who applied for the Amateur Competition also represent a wide number of occupations including: doctors, lawyers, engineers, homemakers, a playwright, a sommelier, a United Nations officer, a gardener, a theologian, and a neuro-scientist.

The applicants range in age from 35 to 78 with an average age of 52 years.

ABOUT THE EIGHTH CLIBURN INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR PIANO COMPETITION

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Preliminary Round (6 concerts at Van Cliburn Recital Hall, 330 East 4th Street)

May 24, 2020 | 2:30 & 7:00 p.m.

May 25, 2020 | 2:30 & 7:00 p.m.

May 26, 2020 | 2:30 & 7:00 p.m.

48 pianists, each performing a 15-minute recital.

Tickets: \$10 per concert

Semifinal Round (4 concerts at Van Cliburn Recital Hall, 330 East 4th Street)

May 27, 2020 | 2:30 & 7:00 p.m.

May 28, 2020 | 2:30 & 7:00 p.m.

20 pianists, each performing a 28-minute recital.

Tickets: \$25 per concert

Final Round (1 concert at Bass Performance Hall, 4th and Calhoun Streets)

May 30, 2020 | 2:30 p.m.

6 pianists, each performing one concerto movement with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Damon Gupton.

Tickets \$25–\$65 (includes awards ceremony)

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

[Full Competition Rules & Repertoire](#)

2020 AMATEUR COMPETITION JURY

[Ralph Votapek](#), jury chairman (United States), 1962 Cliburn gold medalist

[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, **24 pianists will be selected as non-competing festival participants**. In lieu of competing, festival participants will play up to 15 minutes for comments from jurors (these performances will be open to the public). 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. A full schedule of festival events will be announced Spring 2020.

Inaugurated in 1999, the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition (formerly known as the International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs) 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.

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 27–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

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