

The VSO School of Music *Future of Excellence* Competition 2024

The VSO School of Music *Future of Excellence* Competition & Prize promotes, celebrates and supports the aspirations and achievements of young musicians studying at the VSO School of Music.

The Competition is held annually in Pyatt Hall at the VSO School of Music in downtown Vancouver and seeks to offer scholarship funding, recital and professional development opportunities and, for the senior division winner, the **chance to appear as a soloist in concert with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**.

The Competition is held in two divisions: **Junior** (8-13yrs) and **Senior** (14-19yrs) and is open to the following:

- **Piano**
- **Strings:** (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Classical Guitar, Harp)
- **Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion:** (Flute, Oboe and English Horn, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Euphonium; Percussion: Timpani, Marimba, Vibraphone, Snare Drum)
- **Voice** (senior division only, *up to age 22*)

2024 Competition Schedule

Sunday May 12, 2024 daytime (Junior/Senior Division Preliminary)

Wednesday May 15, 2024 evening (Junior/Senior Division Finals)

Deadline to apply: Completed applications and payment must be submitted to the school by **March 1, 2024 at 5:00pm.**

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

There is a non-refundable entrance fee of \$75 (Senior & Junior division).



Prizes

Finalists in each division will be selected after a Preliminary Round. Winners of the preliminary round will then compete in the Final Round for the Grand Prize in each division.

Finalists will receive:

- Scholarship funding
- Recognition on the VSOSoM website

The Junior Grand Prize Winner will receive:

- **a soloist performance with a VSOSoM ensemble in the 2024-25 school year.**
- A dedicated recital in Pyatt Hall
- A recording of the recital
- Scholarship funding
- Recognition on the VSOSoM website



The Senior Grand Prize Winner will receive:

- **a solo performance with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in the 2024-24 Season**
- A dedicated recital in Pyatt Hall
- A recording of the recital
- Scholarship funding
- Recognition on the VSOSoM website



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eligibility

Qualification: Participants must be enrolled in **weekly one-hour private lessons on their instrument** at the VSOSoM for **at least two full terms** (Fall, Winter and/or Spring) during the 2023-2024 school year (September 2023– June 2024) at the time of registration. The studio teacher/coach must agree to and approve entrance to the competition and the repertoire chosen. Contestants must be present at each required stage of the competition.

Age: Senior division applicants must be between the ages of 14 through 19 (up to 22 for Voice Division only) on **January 1, 2024**. Junior division applicants must be between the ages of 8 and 13 years of age on **January 1, 2024**. New applicants must provide a copy of a document indicating date

of birth with the application form along with a signed copy of permission from their VSOSoM Studio teacher/coach.

Residency: Open to residents of Canada only. Entrants may also be asked to provide proof of Canadian residency if required.

Entrance Fee: All applicants must pay an entrance fee of \$75 (senior division & junior division) by cash, cheque, credit or debit card.

Competition Procedure

There are two live rounds in each division of the competition: The **Preliminary Round**, which will select winners chosen to compete in the final round, and the **Final Round**, in which finalists in each division will compete for a Grand Prize.

Preliminary rounds will be closed to the public. However, parents and instructors will be allowed in the balcony seating area of Pyatt Hall for their child's/student's performance *only*. The final round will be open to the public.

Results from the preliminary round will be given to all candidates by email. The announcement of the final round winners will be given from the stage following the final round.

At the discretion of the adjudication panel, no winner may be declared in either division or in the final round. The decision of the panel is final.

Repertoire

For Instrumentalists: One movement of standard Concerto repertoire or solo piece with orchestral accompaniment of the of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, and/or Contemporary eras. In some circumstances, two movements may be allowed (not to exceed 15mins total).

For Vocalists: Vocalists are eligible for the **Senior division only**. Repertoire should include up to 4 contrasting pieces (not to exceed 15mins total) chosen from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary periods. This may include: art song, lieder, oratorio and opera in the original language, one of which must exist with an orchestral accompaniment. Repertoire chosen should be sung in at least 2 languages.

Percussionists – may include tuned and non-tuned percussion in their programmes. Percussionists may bring UP TO TWO other accompanists (e.g. piano and double bass) at their own expense but percussion must be the dominant solo instrument. The VSO School of Music will provide a range of professional percussion instruments for performers at each stage; however, percussionists may provide their own instruments, which they must transport at their own expense.

PLEASE NOTE: Finalists should perform the same repertoire (e.g. same movement) in the final round as in the preliminary round.

All Preliminary and Final performances must be played/sung from memory.

All details of the music should be filled in on the entry form, including publisher and duration of each piece.

Applicants will be allowed to change their choice of repertoire as long as the studio teacher agrees, and VSO School of Music office has been informed by **May 1, 2024**.

Warm up facilities will be provided at the VSO School.

Time limits

Preliminary Round: Each participant may be given up to **15 minutes**.

Final Round: Each participant should perform the SAME movement or programme they performed in the preliminary round.

Copies of Scores

1. Attach one copy OF THE FULL SCORE (showing both solo line & accompaniment to your online submission. If the file is too large to be attached, please send it to theo.budd@vsoschoolofmusic.ca at the time of submission.
2. Candidates must write down the bar numbers at the beginning of each line.

Performers' Accompanists

For all rounds of the competition applicants must provide their own accompanist at their own expense. Performers may select any accompanist of their choice.

Use of Instruments

Apart from pianists and percussionists, applicants must provide their own instrument. If applicants choose to provide their own percussion instruments, this will be at their own expense. A piano will be provided for accompanists. If an applicant requires any other instrument for an accompanist, this will be at the applicant's own expense.

Location

All phases of the competition will take place at Pyatt Hall at the VSO School of Music, 843 Seymour Street, Vancouver, V6B 3L4.

Adjudicators

A panel of adjudicators will be selected by the VSO School of Music. The adjudicators will use a standardized voting system.

Please note that the judges' decision on all matters is final. **The VSO School of Music will not enter into any correspondence, either verbal or written about results.** Adjudicators' notes will be available from the VSO School of Music office on request approximately two weeks after the finals have taken place. No video or audio taping or photography of any kind is allowed at any stage of the competition.

Privacy Policy

The VSO School of Music will only use personal details of any contestant for the purposes of administering the VSO School of Music *Future of Excellence* Competition and will not publish them or provide them to anyone not connected with this event without advance permission. If the VSO School of Music is required to pass details to any third party for the purposes of administering the Competition, the VSO School of Music will require that they only use personal details strictly for these purposes.

Interviews and television cameras

Video cameras may be present to record the Preliminary and Final winning performances. Applicants may be contacted by the VSO School of Music to be interviewed at any stage. Interviews and performances may be recorded for possible use on radio, television and online media.

Performance with the VSO

If selected as the Senior Grand Prize winner to play with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, applicants must perform the same repertoire as in the Final Round unless requested in writing and obtained written permission from the VSO School of Music and the VSO Music Director to change the repertoire.

The Grand Prize winner should note that they may be playing with a professional orchestra and as such, rehearsal time will be limited and may be as short as 40 minutes + dress rehearsal.

The order of performance, performance date, time and location will be determined by the VSO.

In the event of an entrant being unable to take part in the performance with the orchestra for any reason, including illness, then the VSO reserves the right to reschedule the performance or substitute an alternative performer.

Other

Any situation not covered by these rules shall be referred to the VSOSoM Board of Directors, whose decision on such matters shall be final.