Carmel Klavier

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JUNE 24-28, 2026

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition 2026 celebrates its 12th year, continuing to stand as a beacon for young pianists aged 5 to 19. Known for its prestigious reputation, this competition offers an exceptional opportunity for young talents to perform at a world-class facility, with their artistry evaluated by a panel of renowned international judges. Beyond the performance experience, participants benefit from lessons with distinguished pedagogues, enhancing their musical growth and education. The competition also offers significant scholarships and awards, making it an important milestone for aspiring classical pianists. As it attracts participants from around the globe, the 2026 edition promises to further solidify the event's place as a critical stepping stone in the careers of tomorrow's leading musicians.

DATES

Wednesday, June 24–Sunday, June 28, 2026

LOCATION

The Center of the Performing Arts,
1 Carter Green, Carmel, Indiana, USA

CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

- Competitors must be at least 4 years old and no older than 19 years old on June 1, 2026, and must be pre-college students.
- The competition is open to young pianists of any nationality or ethnic origin.

CATEGORIES

- Contestants may apply in one or more of the following categories (use of the same repertoire in more than one category is not allowed).
- Solo category consists of three rounds, and all other categories consist of two rounds.

Solo	Concerto

Modern & Beyond

Duet (1 piano - 4 hands)	Ensemble (2 pianos - 4 hands, 2 pianos - 8 hands, 1 piano - 6 hands, 1 piano - 8 hands)

LEVELS

The competitor's age as of June 1, 2026, determines their level in the Carmel Klavier Competition.

We reserve the right to split or merge levels depending on the number of contestants.

Elementary A: ages up to 7
Elementary B: ages up to 9
Intermediate A: ages up to 11
Intermediate B: ages up to 13
Advanced A: ages up to 15
Advanced B: ages up to 19

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE AND DATES:

By registering, participants acknowledge and accept all competition rules and terms.

This agreement is binding and essential for participation in the event.

Online registration opens on Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Preliminary application deadline: Monday, March 30, 2026
Late Preliminary application deadline: Monday, April 13, 2026
(with an additional $50 fee**)**
Preliminary round results via email: Monday, April 27, 2026.

- Following the announcement of Preliminary round results, **successful contestants must re-register for the live rounds by Monday, May 11, 2026.** This step is essential for advancing participants to secure their place in the next stage of the competition.

FEES

- **Preliminary Round**:
  $80 for Solo, Modern & Beyond, and Concerto categories.
  $50 per contestant for Duet and Ensemble categories.
- **Late fee** $50 for preliminary round (all categories)
- **Live Semi-final and Final round (**Semi-Final is only for SOLO**)**:
  $140 for Solo, Modern & Beyond, and Concerto categories.
  $80 per contestant for Duet and Ensemble categories
- Professional accompanists for the **Concerto Category** may be provided by Carmel Klavier for an additional non-refundable fee:
  $110 for Elementary Level
  $160 for Intermediate and Advanced levels (includes one rehearsal and performance).

JURY

- All decisions of the jury are final and are **not** subject to appeal. Prizes are awarded by jurors' scores and discretion.
- If performances do not meet the established performance quality criteria for the competition, the jury reserves the right to not award a prize in one or all categories.
- The jury reserves the right to interrupt any performance exceeding the allotted time limit.

PRELIMINARY VIDEO AUDITION - ALL CATEGORIES

Deadlines

Monday, March 30, 2026

Late Preliminary application deadline: Monday, April 13, 2026

Entry fees

$80 for Solo/Modern & Beyond/Concerto,
$50/person for Duet and Ensembles)
$50 late fee (if registered between March 30–April 13, 2026)

Video Submission Requirements

- All videos must be submitted via **YouTube** link/links (unlisted). Please include the name and level in the title. The videos may be recorded and posted on YouTube within six months before March 30, 2026.
- All applicants will be notified of the jury's decision regarding the preliminary round no later than April 27, 2026.
- Selected candidates will advance to the live rounds and be notified via email.
- Failure to adhere to the competition's rules may result in disqualification. The organizing committee reserves the right to enforce these standards to ensure fair play and event integrity.

Preliminary Repertoire Requirements for SOLO Category:

- Two original, contrasting piano compositions of different musical eras.
- **Elementary-level participants** may perform compositions from the same period, provided the pieces are contrasting in nature and character.
- Collections of short works (For example: Chopin's Preludes) are allowed to count as one composition.
- Only 1 movement of Sonata or Sonatina
- Memorization is not required.
- The preliminary audition repertoire does not have to be the same as for Semi-Final or Final rounds.

Preliminary Repertoire Requirements for DUET Category

- One duet work for 1 piano-4 hands. Original compositions, arrangements, and transcriptions are accepted.
- Memorization is not required.
- Collections of short works by the same composer are allowed, as long as they fit within the time limit.

Preliminary Repertoire Requirements for ENSEMBLE Category

- One piano ensemble work for:

  1 piano–6 hands

  1 piano–8 hands

  2 pianos–4 hands

  2 pianos–8 hands

- Original compositions, arrangements, and transcriptions are acceptable.
- Memorization is not required.

Preliminary Repertoire Requirements for CONCERTO Category

- The exposition and cadenza of a fast movement of a Piano Concerto, played at a close-to-performance tempo.
- If a cadenza does not exist in the selection, the development can be used as a substitute.
- Must be played from memory.
- Recording with the accompaniment is strongly recommended, but not required.

Preliminary Repertoire Requirements for MODERN & BEYOND Category

- One original piano composition, written after 1920; (Exception: Bartok is allowed)
- Memorization is not required.

***If you have any questions regarding the repertoire choice, please contact us at**
team@carmelklavier.com
Semi-Final Live Round - SOLO only

(Entry fee: $140, includes the final round)

- The Semifinal round, scheduled for June 24–25, 2026, welcomes public attendance. Contestants are required to perform before the judging panel at their assigned time slots.
- Semi-finalists will have access to designated warm-up rooms at scheduled times.
- Results for the Semi-final round will be announced after each day's performances.

Semi-Final Time Limit:

Contestants must adhere to these limits, as performances may be stopped if they exceed the allotted time.

Solo
Elementary A: up to 6 minutes **Elementary B:** up to 8 minutes **Intermediate A:** up to 10 minutes **Intermediate B:** up to 12 minutes **Advanced A:** up to 14 minutes **Advanced B:** up to 16 minutes

Semi-final Repertoire Requirements for SOLO Category:

- Two original, contrasting piano compositions of different musical eras.
- Elementary-level participants may perform compositions of the same period if they are contrasting in nature/character.
- Collections of short works (for example, Chopin's *Preludes*) may be considered as a single composition, provided the performance fits within the allotted time limit.
- Contestants **may use** the same piece/pieces from the **Preliminary** (video) round.
- Memorization is required.

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FINAL LIVE ROUND - ALL CATEGORIES:
(Entry fee: $140 for Modern & Beyond/Concerto

$80/person for Duet and Ensembles)

- The Final round is open to the public. Each contestant must appear before the panel of judges at his/her designated time.
- Warm-up rooms and assigned warm-up times will be available to all finalists.
- Additional practice times will be available to all participants on a first-come, first-served basis, depending on availability at the Center for the Performing Arts (to be announced). ***Please note that assigned practice times will NOT be offered before the competition.***
- All final round results will be announced at the Final Award Ceremony on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 6:30 pm, followed by the Winners' Concert.

Final Round Time Limit:

The performance time will be determined based on the level registered. Contestants' performances may be stopped at the judges' discretion if the time limit is exceeded.

Solo	Concerto
Elementary A: up to 5 minutes **Elementary B:** up to 6 minutes **Intermediate A:** up to 7 minutes **Intermediate B:** up to 8 minutes **Advanced A:** up to 9 minutes **Advanced B:** up to 10 minutes	**Elementary**: up to 10 minutes **Intermediate**: up to 15 minutes **Advanced**: up to 20 minutes

Modern & Beyond
Elementary: up to 6 minutes **Intermediate:** up to 10 minutes **Advanced:** up to 14 minutes

Duet	Ensemble
Elementary: up to 8 minutes **Intermediate:** up to 12 minutes **Advanced:** up to 16 minutes	**Elementary:** up to 4 minutes **Intermediate:** up to 8 minutes **Advanced:** up to 12 minutes

Final Round Repertoire Requirements for Solo Category:

- One original piano composition
- Contestants may use the same piece as the **Preliminary** (video) round, but *not* from the semi-final live round.
- Collections of short works (for example, Chopin's *Preludes*) may be considered as a single composition, provided the performance fits within the allotted time limit.
- Memorization is required.

Final Round Repertoire Requirements for Concerto Category:

- The same movement of the concerto you used.
- The piano solo part must be performed in its entirety; only cuts in the orchestral part are permitted.
- Memorization is required.

Final Round Repertoire Requirements for Duet Category:

- Two piano duets.
- Original compositions, arrangements, and transcriptions are accepted.
- Memorization is optional. No page-turner will be provided.

Final Round Repertoire Requirements for Ensemble Category:

- One Piano Ensemble (1 piano 6 hands, 1 piano 8 hands, 2 pianos 4 hands, 2 piano 6 hands, 2 piano 8 hands)
- Original compositions, arrangements, and transcriptions are accepted.
- Memorization is optional. No page-turner will be provided.

Final Round Repertoire Requirements for Modern & Beyond Category:

- Two original contrasting piano compositions by different composers, written after 1920; (Exception: Bartok is allowed)
- Memorization **is required**

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LESSONS WITH THE MASTERS:

As part of our mission to inspire and educate the next generation of classical music lovers and performers, we design and implement various programs tailored to students.

- Private lessons will offer young artists a unique opportunity to engage with and learn from the esteemed international jury and faculty members of Carmel Klavier.
- Lessons are available to all contestants of Carmel Klavier, as well as to other piano students who are not competing.
- Masterclasses and lessons are 45 minutes long, and $130 per session.
- Classes will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. You will be able to purchase lessons through the website during the week of the competition.

AWARDS:

We are proud to partner with colleges and piano festivals to offer scholarships and monetary prizes in each category, totaling $20,000.

Our largest monetary award is the **Grand Prize**. To become eligible, the contestant:

- Must participate in Solo and either Concerto or Modern & Beyond category.
- Win a first prize in the Solo category and receive perfect scores from at least two judges in either category.
- The Grand Prize is shareable with multiple contestants or reserved at the judges' discretion.

Judges' Recognition Awards are given to participants in any category who receive multiple perfect scores.

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