



2017 APPLICANT INFORMATION BOOKLET

The following outlines the procedures, repertoire requirements, rules and regulations of the 2017 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition. We encourage applicants to examine the information in this booklet before proceeding with the online submission form. Any questions about your application can be made to contact@lev-vlassenko.com or telephone +61417893210.

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About the Competition

The Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition and Festival is a major Australian piano event, held biennially in Brisbane. It provides talented Australian and New Zealand based performers between 16 and 30 with a major platform to develop professionally and artistically, and to compete for substantial cash prizes.

The competition was established in 1999 to honour the memory of the late Professor Lev Vlassenko, the world-renowned international concert pianist and teacher. Lev had a close affiliation with Australia, acting as jury member of the Sydney International Piano Competition and International Professor Consultant to the Queensland and Sydney Conservatoriums. He spent the last two years of his life teaching piano at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, where he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate. His daughter Natasha Vlassenko and her husband Oleg Stepanov are the event's Artistic Directors.

Running in conjunction with the Competition, the Festival offers a wide range of events for students, teachers, and lovers of piano, with masterclasses, recitals by visiting international artists and a program for high school students.

The Competition will be held in Brisbane from **Sunday 3 September to Friday 15 September 2017**.

There will be four rounds. There will be up to 20 competitors in **Round 1 & 2** which will consist of recital performances as follows:

- Round 1 - to a total of 20 minutes
- Round 2 - 25-35 minutes.

There will be up to ten (10) competitors in **Round 3** which will be a 50 to 60 minute recital of own choice repertoire. This recital must include a major work of at least 15 minutes duration and a commissioned Australian work.

There will be up to four (4) competitors in **Round 4**, the final round, which will take place on **Friday 15 September 2015**.

Finalists will play a concerto with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in the Conservatorium Theatre at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, South Bank. All prize winners will be announced and their prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of **Round 4**.

The Official Ballot Draw for the order of performance throughout the Competition will take place prior to the start of the Competition. This order will not be altered except at the discretion of the Jury in case of illness or other special circumstances.

Prizes

The cash prizes (in Australian dollars) will be:

- **First Prize \$25,000**
- **Second Prize \$10,000**
- **Third Prize \$5,000**
- **Fourth Prize \$3,000**
- **Concerto Prize \$5,000**
- **People's Choice Prize \$5,000**
- **Encouragement Award \$1,000**
- **Enid Lane Memorial Prize for Mozart \$1,000**
- **Best Recital in Round Two \$1,000**
- **Best Performance of a Prelude and Fugue \$1,000**
- **Best Performance of a Virtuoso Study \$1,000**
- **Best Performance of a Classical Sonata \$1,000**
- **Best Performance of an Australian Work \$1,000**
- **Best Performance of a Russian Work \$1,000**
- **Best Performance of a Work by Liszt \$1,000**
- **Best Performance of a Work by Chopin \$1,000**
- **Queensland Symphony Orchestra Vote \$1,000**

Additional performance prizes may be offered. Final details will be published before the Competition commences. The Jury reserves the right not to award any prize. The prizes may be shared.

The Jury

The Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition Jury includes eminent Australian and international concert pianists. Members of the Jury will be invited to give recitals and masterclasses.

Any contestant who makes an attempt or on whose behalf an attempt is made to communicate with any member of the Jury before the completion of the competitor's participation may be disqualified. The decisions of the Jury are final and may not be challenged. If a Jury member teaches or has taught a contestant within two years of the commencement of the competition, the Jury member will abstain from the discussion and voting regarding that contestant. A masterclass to the contestant within six months of the first day of the competition is also to be deemed to be teaching.

Eligibility

The Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition is open to pianists who on commencement of the Competition on 3rd September 2017, are aged at least 16 and no older than 30 (ie: you cannot have had your 30th birthday) and who are permanent residents or citizens of Australia or New Zealand; or are from another nation and have been studying in Australia or New Zealand for at least one year as at 3rd September 2017.

Previous first prize winners are not eligible to enter.

Key Dates

1. Applications close – **Friday 31st March 2017.**
2. Auditions (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland)– **Various dates, May 2017**
3. Letters of Invitation sent – **June 2017**
4. Submission deadline for program changes of selected applicants – **Friday 7 July 2017**
5. Competitors Registration – **Sunday 3rd September 2017**
6. Performance Round 1 - **Tuesday 5th September 2017**
7. Performance Round 2 - **Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th September 2017**
8. Performance Round 3 - **Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September 2017**
9. Final Round - **Friday 15th September 2017**

How to Apply

All applications must be completed online at www.lev-vlassenko.com. The online application will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. There are five sections to the application:

Part 1: Personal Details

Part 2: Contact and Education Details

Part 3: Repertoire

Part 4: Biography, Identification and Publicity Materials

Part 5: Declarations and Payment

To complete this **online application**, you will need to have the following information and files ready:

- **All repertoire details**
- **Biography (250 words max.) and Curriculum Vitae (3 A4 pages max.)** with details of training and qualifications, competitions entered and awards received, etc.
- **One high resolution headshot image, in JPG format (4MB max.)** suitable for use in publicity (please note that you will not be able to complete the **online application** form without providing these files)

You are also required to submit the following items of supporting documentation:

- **Scanned, certified copy of birth certificate, passport or another legal document stating the applicant's date of birth and nationality**
- **Scanned, signed letter from your present or recent teacher, or a musician of national standing, recommending your participation in the Competition**
- *If you are a non-Australian resident:* **A scanned, certified copy of an Academic transcript indicating dates and place of study**

At the end of the application process, you will be able to **pay the application fee of \$180**, online via **PayPal** (Visa and Mastercard accepted) or by **Direct Deposit** into the following account. (You will be asked to provide your payment description/reference so that your deposit can be verified.)

BSB - 064000 ACC - 10482659 The Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition

Auditions

Auditions will take place in Australia and New Zealand, in May 2017. Applicants will be advised by email of the date and location of auditions. Applicants will be expected to prepare and play from memory:

- A virtuoso study from Round 1, and
- A first movement of a classical sonata from Round 2; and
- A piece from the list specified for Round 2; and
- A major work from Round 3; and
- The first movement of the concerto the contestant has nominated to play in Round 4.

Applicants will be responsible for providing their own accompanists and the costs of travelling to and from auditions and for associated living expenses. Details will be given to all applicants when they are advised of their audition.

Applicants who are overseas at the time must provide high-quality video of their performance, along with certified verification of the performance no later than **Friday 12 May 2017**. **Footage provided must be recorded after 1 November 2016 and no later than Friday 12 May 2017.**

The recording must be certified and no editing is permitted.

Engagements

It is hoped that prize winners may be offered further performance opportunities. Pending the conclusion of current negotiations, no guarantee can be given that offers of engagements will eventuate.

Acceptance

Applicants will be advised whether or not they have been selected to compete in Brisbane. Selected competitors must complete and return the official Acceptance Form to the Competition Administrator.

Repertoire

All rounds must be played from memory and works must be chosen as specified in the Competition Repertoire provided below. A competitor cannot play a work more than once during the Competition. All sonatas must be performed in their entirety. Any twentieth century works chosen must not be for prepared piano. The jury reserves the right to stop contestants who run over time.

Changes to nominated repertoire may be made up to **7 July 2017** and then only with the written permission to the competition.

COMPETITION REPERTOIRE

Round 1 - Program of 20 minutes

Any prelude and fugue of JS Bach or Shostakovich **and** any virtuoso study of Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninoff or Scriabin **and** one or more pieces of your own choice.

Round 2 - Program of between 25 and 35 minutes

Any sonata by **Mozart, Haydn** or **Clementi** **and** one or more of the following -

Chopin

- Ballades (Op 23, 38, 47, 52)
- Scherzo (Op 20, 31, 39, 54)
- Andante Spinato and Grand Polonaise (Op 22)
- Fantaisie (Op 49)
- Barcarolle (Op 60)
- Polonaise No 7 (Polonaise-Fantaisie, Op 61)

Schumann

- Abegg Variations (Op 1)
- Symphonic Etudes (Op 13)
- Toccata (Op 7)

Brahms

- Variations on an original theme (Op 21, No 1)
- Variations on a theme of Schumann (Op 9)
- Variations on a theme of Paganini (Op 35) Bk1 or Bk2

Tchaikovsky

- Dumka: Russian rustic scene (Op 59)
- Theme and Variations in F Major from Six Morceaux (Op 19)

Liszt

- Hungarian Rhapsody No 2 or No 6 or No 10 or No 11 or No 12 or No 15
- Rhapsodie Espagnole
- Années de pèlerinage 1 No 6 (Vallee d'Obermann)
- Années de pèlerinage 2 No 7 (Après une Lecture du Dante-Fantasia quasi sonata)
- Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses No 7 (Funérailles)
- Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses (Benediction de dieu dans la solitude)
- Ballade No 2 (b)
- Mephisto Waltz No 1

Mendelssohn

- Fantasia Opus 28
- Variations Serieuses Op 54

Franck

- Prélude, chorale, et fugue

Round 3 - A program of between 50 and 60 minutes

This round must feature a musically balanced programme that includes a **major work** of at least 15 minutes duration and a **commissioned Australian work of 8 mins** (the commissioned work will be provided to successful applicants upon acceptance of entry into the Competition).

Round 4 - Any one of the following concertos

Bartók - Concerto No 3

Beethoven - No 1, Op 15 or No 2, Op 19 or No 3, Op 37 or No 4, Op 58 or No 5, Op 73

Chopin - No1, Op 11 or No 2, Op 21

Grieg - Op 16

Liszt - No 1 or No 2

Mozart - K466 or K488 or K467 or K595 or K453 or K503 or K537

Prokofiev – No 1, Op 10, No 3, Op 26

Rachmaninoff – No 1, Op 1, No 2, Op 18, No 3, Op 30 or Rhapsody on a theme by Paganini, Op 43

Ravel - Concerto in G Major

Saint-Saëns - No 2, Op 22

Schumann - Op 54

Tchaikovsky - No 1, Op 23

Registration

Competitors must register in person in Brisbane on Sunday 3rd September, 2017. However, if a competitor is late due to unavoidable circumstances, the Competition may allow such latecomers to enter the Competition. Competitors will register at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University where they will receive rehearsal and performance timetables.

Attendance

We anticipate all contestants staying in Brisbane until the final round in order to participate in other festival activities. If a contestant must leave Brisbane, they should inform the competition of their expected departure date.

Travel & Accommodation

Competitors are responsible for payment for their travel to and from Brisbane.

The Competition administrators can arrange billeting in Brisbane for the duration of each competitor's involvement in the Competition at no cost to competitors. Billeting is not offered to competitors residing in Brisbane.

Insurance

Competitors are responsible for their own personal and property insurance. The Competition accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any sickness or accident or for any damage to or loss of competitors' belongings while in transit or during their stay in Brisbane.

Practice & Rehearsals

Set times for warm-up and rehearsal will be allocated in the competition structure. Practice room availability and schedules will be advised upon entrance to Competition. **Three days have been allocated for finalists to rehearse with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Conductor before Round 4.**

Performance Rights

All competitors will be contracted exclusively to the Competition. The Competition has the right, without payment of fees, to:

- televise, film, video, tape, broadcast, webcast or photograph all rounds of the competition.
- produce and distribute, without limit, recordings of all rounds of the Competition, whether in whole or in part;
- produce documentary or feature films.

All approaches to and from the media as well as sponsors must be made through and with the approval of the Competition. Competitors may be required to be available for media calls arranged by the Competition.

Broadcasting

ABC Radio and Radio 4MBS Classic FM may record for radio and broadcast all competition rounds. Performances may be recorded and webcast on the internet via the competition website.

Other Activities

Contestants may be asked to participate in Festival activities including, but not limited to, Recitals in High Schools, Q&A sessions with emerging piano students and other media engagements. Although we expect that Finalists will be available where appropriate, Finalists do reserve the right to decline an invitation to participate in these activities.

Acknowledgements

The prize winner shall for a period of ten (10) years after the date of the receipt of such prize include a clause in their curriculum vitae, biographical notes and performance programs, as an acknowledgement of their having been a prize-winner in this Competition.

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If you require assistance completing the application form, please contact the Administrator of the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition:

contact@lev-vlassenko.com

Tel: +61 417893210