

HOWARD HANSON CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

In honoring Dr. Howard Hanson, renowned American composer, conductor, educator, and director of the Eastman School of Music from 1924-1964, the Rochester Piano Teachers Guild in cooperation with NYSMTA District 12 seeks to recognize high school seniors who have made piano study a significant part of their lives and have demonstrated sustained commitment and musical achievement. We invite piano teachers to recommend such students for participation in the annual Howard Hanson Auditions.

All students participating in these auditions will receive written comments from the adjudication panel, along with a Certificate of Participation. Several weeks following the auditions, those students selected to receive the Certificate of Merit will be celebrated in a public event, the annual Howard Hanson Awards Recital.

The Howard Hanson Certificate of Merit gives special recognition and acknowledgement to high school seniors who demonstrate a refined command of their repertoire, regardless of its level of difficulty. This Certificate represents a culmination of an individual's musical curiosity, discipline and attainment prior to commencement.

Performances must display:

- solid technical mastery of each piece
- adherence to the musical scores
- evidence of stylistic considerations
- sincere effort to create compelling, expressive musical engagement.

IMPORTANT PROCEDURES AND DATES FOR 2024-2025

November 6th – Deadline for e-mailing applications and sending audition fee.

November 18th – Hanson Committee meets to approve programs. If a program is not approved, the teacher will be notified of the reason. Adjustments to those programs may be resubmitted via e-mail anytime up through Jan 3rd for approval.

January 30th – Final day to make any program change.
Repertoire changes must be e-mailed by the teacher to the

Hanson Committee Secretary with the student's e-mail address included as a Cc. Changes must again be approved by the committee.

March 9th – Auditions take place Sunday afternoon and evening.

March 23rd – The Winners' Recital will take place at 7:00 PM in Wilmot Recital Hall of Nazareth College.

All winners are expected to perform.

HANSON AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Students audition with a 3-piece memorized program consisting of *contrasting* works chosen from a variety of historic musical styles.

Choose three compositions from the four categories listed below: You may combine categories 1-2-3 OR 1-3-4 OR 2-3-4.

Category #1 -- A work written by a composer born before 1700.

Category #2 -- A work written by a composer born between 1700 and 1790.

Category #3 -- A work written by a composer born any date after 1790 up to modern times.

Category #4 -- A work written by a composer different from Category 3 born any date after 1790 up to modern times.

1. The three pieces chosen must have contrasting moods or styles. The composers must have written the pieces for solo piano. No arrangements, pop or movie music.
2. "A category" may consist of a group of short works or movements from a suite by a given composer.
 - Ex. 1. Two or more preludes by a composer.
 - Ex. 2. Selected dances from a suite.
3. One of the three pieces must contain a large slower section indicating that it is to be performed at a tempo no faster than Moderate/Moderato/Modéré.
4. The entire audition program will be heard by the jury panel. Please avoid unnecessary repeats. A legal copy of each piece must be provided at the audition.
5. NO PHOTOCOPIES ALLOWED. NO CHANGES OF REPERTOIRE AT THE AUDITION ARE ALLOWED. Either will disqualify the student.

See sample programs and contact information below.

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

* Indicates a work that fulfills the “slow tempo” requirement.

#1 (categories 1, 3 and 4)

J.S. Bach: Minuet in B-flat major *from Anna Magdalena Notebook*, BWV 118

*Chopin: Prelude in C minor, Op. 28, No. 20

*Rollin: Moonlight Nocturne

#2 (categories 2, 3 and 4)

Kuhlau: Sonatina in C major, Op. 20, No. 1 (I. Allegro)

*Debussy: Reverie

Gillock: Etude in A major (The Coral Sea)

#3 (categories 1, 2 and 3)

Scarlatti: Sonata in A major, L. 483

*Mozart: Sonata in C major, K. 545 (II. Andante)

Kabalevsky: Etude in A minor, Op. 27, No. 3

#4 (categories 2, 3 and 4)

Beethoven: German Dance in D major, WoO 8, No. 10

*MacDowell: To a Wild Rose

*Jennifer Linn: Mighty River

#5 (categories 1, 3 and 4)

Bach: from French Suite in G major, BWV 816

I. Allemande

*III. Sarabande

VII. Gigue

Debussy: Prelude Book I, No. 3 (The Wind in the Plain)

Bartok: Allegro barbaro

#6 (categories 1, 2 and 3)

Handel: Toccata in G minor, HWV 586

Haydn: Sonata in D major, Hob. XVI:33 (I. Allegro)

*Brahms: Intermezzo in E major, Op. 116, No. 4

#7 (categories 2, 3 and 4)

*Beethoven: Sonata in C minor, Op. 13 (II. Adagio cantabile)

Rachmaninoff: Prelude in G-sharp minor, Op. 32, No. 12

*Liebermann: Gargoyle No. 2 (Adagio semplice)

For the latest information, go to: www.rochesterpianoteachers.org

Questions: please contact Hanson Committee Secretary, Beth Fischer

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