Memorization: Required

Scores: Do not provide music for the judges at Preliminaries unless you have selected a rarely performed work. For Finals, you MUST provide the judge with scores.

Performance Requirements:
- Literature: 3 works including 1 virtuosic (fast) etude from any style period and 2 contrasting works from 2 different style periods, regardless of the style period of the etude chosen
- Performance time: 6 minutes for Preliminaries, 10 minutes for Finals

One selection must be a virtuosic etude which highlights skill and technique from any style period – i.e., Chopin, Clementi, Czerny, Rachmaninov, Scriabin, etc.

Two additional selections: These two selections must contrast in style with each other and be chosen from two of the following style periods (based on composition date). However, it is acceptable for your chosen etude to be from the same time period as one of these other two selections (i.e. you may choose to perform a Chopin etude and another selection by Chopin):

- Baroque: Handel, Bach, Scarlatti, etc.
- Classical: Haydn, Clementi, Mozart, Beethoven, etc.
- Romantic: Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, etc.
- Impressionistic: Debussy, Fauré, etc.
- 20th Century and Today: Bartók, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Ginastera, etc.

We do not require that the student’s opening piece be performed starting at the beginning (or the start of the movement) and cuts will be allowed to allow a student to feature a segment of the piece that showcases more technical or musical skill. Concertos and arrangements are not admissible selections. If choosing a sonata, please include the opus number and key. Also indicate the specific movement(s) that you are prepared to perform by numbers and tempo (e.g., Beethoven, Sonata in C major, op. 2, no. 3, mvt. 1, “allegro con brio”).

NOTE: If specific movements are not selected it will be assumed that you are prepared to perform any part of the entire sonata.

Eligibility Requirement: Applicants must be a resident or enrolled in a learning institution within the 5-state region (MN, WI, SD, ND or IA).

Performance Procedure and Atmosphere: Check in with the Registration Desk. You will be directed to warm-up rooms and the performance room for your category. Competitors must keep track of the time and go to the performance room at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled performance time.

A Schubert Club volunteer announces each competitor’s performance number and his/her choice of first performance selection to the Preliminary judges. The competitor enters and may briefly test the keyboard prior to performing in full view of the judges. Briefly announce where you will begin the first selected piece if you don’t plan to start at the beginning. A volunteer is present to time each performance and critiquing period.

Competitors do not need to begin with their etude, however, they will be required to perform their etude when asked during the time allotment. The judges may start or stop selections at any point (e.g., the exposition selection of a sonata movement or the coda of a Chopin ballade) in the three pieces during the total time allotment.

Immediately following the Preliminaries, names of finalists will be posted near the registration table and through Twitter – twitter.com/schubertclub. Finals will take place on Sunday, following the day of Preliminaries. You will be emailed your competition time for Finals as soon as possible on the day of Preliminaries. All competitors will receive the judges’ written critiques by mail during the week following the competition. Finalist and Scholarship Winner names will also be posted on the Schubert Club website on Monday morning.

At Finals, Piano competitors will perform for a single judge using the same procedure as for Preliminaries. Each competitor must present the judge with scores. The judge will write critiques and select 1st and 2nd prize winners. Winners’ names are Tweeted, posted at the Competition site, and on the Schubert Club website. Winners are also notified by mail. All competitors will receive the judge’s critique by mail.

1st prize winners will be invited to play at the Winners Recital scheduled on Saturday, March 28, 1 pm at the Ordway Concert Hall. Instructions will be emailed during the week following the competition and performers will be asked for specific repertoire information. 2nd prize winners will be invited to perform if the 1st prize winner cannot commit.

No observers are allowed in the performance rooms for the Preliminaries however they will be allowed at the Finals. If a competitor has a compelling reason for not having observers in the room, they may request that observers wait outside during their performance. However, this request must be submitted directly to Competition Manager, Kate Cooper (kcooper@schubert.org) one week in advance of the Finals. Last minute requests will not be acknowledged.

There is no direct communication between the competitor and the judge(s).