

Welcome to M-Prize, an international chamber arts competition based in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance!

**Application Deadline: Monday, January 15, 2018, 11:59PM EST. Absolutely no applications will be accepted after the deadline.**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- All ensemble members competing in the Junior Division must not have reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by May 3, 2018.
- The average age of an ensemble competing in the Senior Division must not exceed 35 years of age, with no individual member having reached their 41st birthday by May 3, 2018.
- M-Prize is open to all nationalities and residents of any country.
- Ensembles must compete in one (and only one) of three ensemble categories:
  - Strings (violin, viola, cello, bass, harp, guitar, piano, and harpsichord)
  - Winds (woodwinds, brass, piano, and harpsichord)
  - Open (ensembles of any instrumentation including, but not limited to: percussion; voice; technology including, but not limited to, turntables, laptops, visual media and/or lighting; ensembles whose work contains a significant amount of improvisation including, but not limited to, jazz, bluegrass, world music, and/or free improvisation)
- Ensembles applying to the Open Division must have 2-10 members with one member per part. Ensembles applying to the Strings and Winds Divisions must have 3-10 members with one member per part (i.e., traditional sonata pairings are ineligible). Ensembles may not include conductors.
- Membership of the ensemble may not change once the application is submitted. No substitute members are permitted for any rounds of M-Prize.
- Junior Division ensembles may include individuals who have been previously awarded first place only if those individuals comprise less than half of the ensemble's total membership.
- Senior Division ensembles may not include any individual who has previously won the Grand Prize.
- All ensembles meeting eligibility requirements listed above are encouraged to apply, with the exception of ensembles who have been professionally affiliated -- as an ensemble -- with the University of Michigan during this academic year (2017-2018). Current University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance students are eligible.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Online Application Requirements available at [mprize.umich.edu](http://mprize.umich.edu)
  - Apply online at [mprize.fluidreview.com](http://mprize.fluidreview.com)
    - Complete application form
    - Upload:
      - Current ensemble biography in PDF format (150 - 250 words)
      - High resolution ensemble photograph (.jpg)
      - Proof of Age for each ensemble member (e.g., valid Driver's License, birth certificate copy)
      - Intended repertoire list for M-Prize live audition rounds (see Full Repertoire Requirements: "Live Audition Rounds")
  - Submit the application fee of \$75 per Junior Ensemble and \$125 per Senior Ensemble. Payable via credit card at <http://mprize.umich.edu/app-fee.html>.
  - Preliminary Round Video Audition files should be submitted as Youtube and/or Vimeo links and included in the application form. The videos may be uploaded as "unlisted" or "private to those with link/password" on Youtube/Vimeo. Please ensure the videos will be visible to viewers with the link.
    - Each video file should contain only one piece (multi-movement works may be submitted as one file) and titled [Name of Composition].
    - The length of uploaded videos should equal the total number of minutes specified in the full repertoire requirements.
  - Please note the following video requirements:
    - All members of the group must perform in each recorded selection.
    - Video audio must not be edited in any way. Multiple camera angles are acceptable.
    - Please allow sufficient time to prepare and upload videos.
    - **Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

## FULL REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

- **Preliminary Round Video**
  - Senior Division: 25 minute program that demonstrates contrasting repertoire and/or styles.
  - Junior Division: 15 minute program that demonstrates contrasting repertoire and/or styles.
  - All members of the group must perform in each recorded selection.
  - Timings are approximate for this round. Please submit a program within five minutes of your ensemble's respective length requirements (e.g., a 23 or 28 minute program is acceptable for Senior applicants. A 31 minute program is unacceptable.).

- **Live Audition Rounds (Semi-Finals, Finals, and Grand Prize)**
  - Senior Division: Ensembles should submit two items for their program: a 60-75 minute repertoire list that demonstrates contrasting repertoire and/or styles as well as the best qualities of the ensemble **and** a 5-8 minute work/piece/movement which they will reserve and play in its entirety on the M-Prize Grand Prize Gala Concert. The additional piece must be saved until the Gala: it may not be performed on either the Semi-Final or the Final rounds. A variety of range is encouraged and programming will be considered in adjudication. Single movements and/or complete works are acceptable. All members of each group must perform in each selection, including the Gala Concert selections.
  - Junior Division: Ensembles should submit a 30-40 minute repertoire list that demonstrates contrasting repertoire and/or styles as well as the best qualities of the ensemble. A variety of range is encouraged and programming will be considered in adjudication. Single movements and/or complete works are acceptable. All members of each group must perform in each selection.
- Repertoire for the live rounds will be finalized after Semi-Finalists are notified of their status on March 1, 2018 (i.e., changes can be made between Semi-Finalist notification and the repertoire deadline on April 1, 2018).
- No changes to repertoire may be made after April 1, 2018.

#### **HOW THE AUDITIONS WILL OCCUR:**

- **M-Prize Youth Engagement Round (Live in Ann Arbor, Senior Division Semi-Finals Only)**
  - Each Senior Division Semi-Finalist ensembles will have 5-10 minutes to present to, perform for and/or engage with an audience of elementary school students. Ensembles should prepare in an effort to demonstrate their commitment to and impact on different or non-traditional audiences.
  - The jury will adjudicate a group's performance and/or presentation based on how effectively they connect with and create a relevant learning experience for a children's audience.
  - The Youth Engagement Round will occur prior to the Semi-Final audition rounds. The overall implication on scoring will be approximately 10 - 20% of the Semi-Finals round.
- **Semi-Final Round (Live in Ann Arbor)**
  - Senior Division: Each ensemble will be allotted a 20 minute audition. The jury will select 1-2 pieces from the ensemble's submitted program (see Live Audition

Rounds). Time permitting, the ensemble may choose additional selections (from their submitted program) for the remainder of the audition. The ensemble may play its selections in any order, and the jury may stop and/or start the ensemble at any point.

- Junior Division: Each ensemble will be allotted a 15 minute audition. The jury will select 1-2 pieces from the ensemble's submitted program (see Live Audition Rounds). Time permitting, the ensemble may choose additional selections (from their submitted program) for the remainder of the audition. The ensemble may play its selections in any order, and the jury may stop and/or start the ensemble at any point.
- **Finals (Live in Ann Arbor)**
  - Senior Division: Each ensemble will be allotted a 30 minute audition. The jury will select 1-3 pieces from the ensemble's submitted program (see Live Audition Rounds). Time permitting, the ensemble may choose additional selections (from their submitted program) for the remainder of the audition. The ensemble may play its selections in any order, and the jury may stop and/or start the ensemble at any point.
  - Junior Division: Each ensemble will be allotted a 20 minute audition. The jury will select 1-3 pieces from the ensemble's submitted program (see Live Audition Rounds). Time permitting, the ensemble may choose additional selections (from their submitted program) for the remainder of the audition. The ensemble may play its selections in any order, and the jury may stop and/or start the ensemble at any point.
- **Grand Prize (Senior Division Only)**
  - Senior Division: Each ensemble will be allotted a total of 25 minutes on the Grand Prize Gala Concert Program. The 25 minute timeframe includes all transitions between selections. This round of competition is in concert format, not audition format, and the ensemble will choose the entirety of their repertoire. Selections on this program must come from the submitted repertoire list, and the program must include the reserved piece saved for the Gala Concert. Repertoire should demonstrate the breadth and depth of the ensemble's abilities, and programming will be considered in adjudication.
- **Interview Round (Senior Division Only)**
  - For the interview round, ensemble members will give a 5 minute presentation that describes the ensemble's curatorial vision.
  - Your presentation might address one or more of the following areas of chamber arts practice: artistry, repertoire, audience engagement, multidisciplinary, or community service.

- Following your presentation, you will be interviewed in front of a public audience and the judging panel by members of the SMTD Department of Entrepreneurship & Leadership. The presentation and interview segment combined will last 30 minutes.
- Scoring for the Interview Round will be weighted as 10% of the final score to determine the 2018 M-Prize winner.

## PRIZES<sup>1</sup>

### Senior Division Prizes (average age may not exceed 35)

- **Grand Prize: \$100,000 and Performance on UMS Chamber Arts Series**
  - The M-Prize Winner is selected from one of three 1<sup>st</sup> Place Laureate Ensembles during the Gala Concert at Hill Auditorium on May 6, 2018.
  - The M-Prize Winner will receive a \$100,000 total cash prize for the ensemble.
  - The M-Prize Winner will perform on a UMS Chamber Arts Series Concert.
- **Strings:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$20,000 and residency at U-M during the 2018-19 academic year\*
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$8,000
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$5,000
- **Winds:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$20,000 and residency at U-M during the 2018-19 academic year\*
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$8,000
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$5,000
- **Open:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$20,000 and residency at U-M during the 2018-19 academic year\*
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$8,000
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$5,000

\*The \$20,000 Senior Division Award that an ensemble receives as a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble is part of the Grand Prize and not additional to the \$100,000. Length and scope of the U-M SMTD residency will be based on the needs of the Laureates and School.

---

<sup>1</sup> Tax consequences may arise for winning ensembles. [Please refer to this document](#) for an overview of the tax forms that will be requested of awardees and the possible tax consequences of these awards.

### Junior Division Prizes (Ages 18 and under)

- **Strings:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$5,000
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$3,000
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$2,000
- **Winds:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$5,000
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$3,000
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$2,000
- **Open:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$5,000
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$3,000
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Laureate Ensemble: \$2,000

Additional professional development opportunities may be awarded and may include, but are not limited to, performances and residencies. All rounds of M-Prize will be livestreamed.

### CONDITIONS

All information is subject to change.

For questions regarding the competition, contact Heather at [mprizedirector@umich.edu](mailto:mprizedirector@umich.edu).

---

### 2018 M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition: Rules & Regulations Fall 2017

#### U-M Equipment:

- M-Prize, hosted by the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD), is committed to offering all possible instrumental, logistical, and technical support required for each ensemble to showcase their artistic vision. U-M will use their best efforts to provide the requested equipment, provided that it is requested by the deadline set forth by the Program Director.
- M-Prize Staff will coordinate with each ensemble to determine what equipment and support the SMTD is able to provide.
- It is expected that each ensemble handle SMTD-owned equipment with extreme care.
- Contact information for percussion, sound, and lighting inquiries will be provided upon Semi-Finalist notification on March 1, 2018.

#### Thursday Rehearsals:

- Ensembles will not have unlimited access to the audition halls on Thursday, May 3. M-Prize will provide a rehearsal schedule for all Semi-Finalist ensembles to briefly rehearse in their

designated audition hall on Thursday afternoon. Rehearsal times will be communicated to each ensemble in March 2018.

- School of Music, Theatre & Dance practice rooms and classrooms are available for M-Prize ensembles to rehearse in. All rooms are first come, first served. M-Prize staff will not monitor these rooms on Thursday, May 3. On May 4, each group will be designated a specific practice room.

### **Scores:**

- Upon arrival, please provide 1 original score set and 2 copies of score sets for your full submitted repertoire list. The copies will only be used for adjudication purposes.

### **Repertoire Selection Process:**

- You will be emailed with the jury's repertoire selections **the evening before the respective round** (Thursday evening for Semi-Finals selections and Friday evening for Finals selections). The jury will select 1-2 pieces for the Semi-Finals round and 1-3 pieces for the Finals round.
- Based on the jury selections, please fill out any remaining audition time (Juniors: 15 minutes for Semi-Finals and 20 minutes for Finals; Seniors: 20 minutes for Semi-Finals and 30 minutes for Finals) with your choice of repertoire from your list. Please email your Semi-Finalist Liaison with these selections in order **by 8am the morning of your audition** (Thursday evening for Semi-Finals selections and Friday evening for Finals selections).
- The Semi-Finals and Finals rounds are in audition format. The jury may stop and/or start the ensemble at any point.

### **Semi-Finals and Finals Audition Structure:**

#### **Strings/Winds Ensembles**

- *Warm Up Time:* Each ensemble will have time to warm up and rehearse prior to the audition.
  - Please tune backstage carefully: check if you need to once you walk on, but keep it brief and make only what changes are necessary. U-M pianos are tuned to A=440.
- *Pianists:* All pianists will be granted a designated time to try the hall's piano.
- *Stands/chairs/stools:* The stage manager will set the appropriate stands/chairs/stools, etc., for each audition.
- *Program Introduction:* For your Semi-Finals and Finals auditions, at least one member of your ensemble is required to speak from the stage, introducing your ensemble, your members, and what you will be playing to the audience. The jury will know this information, but this is your opportunity to connect with the audience and share this information with them. Keep the introduction under 90 seconds, and your audition timing will begin after your 90 second introduction.
- *Timing:* Your program time (Juniors: 15 min (Semis) or 20 min (Finals)); Seniors: 20 min (Semis) or 30 min (Finals)) will begin immediately after your 90 second introduction. Make any **brief** adjustments to set-up or tuning prior to the start of your spoken introduction. Timing warnings may be signaled by the Jury Advisor when you have 30 seconds remaining in your introduction and when you have 1 minute remaining in your audition performance. The Jury Advisor will cut you off by clapping when the audition is finished.

## Open Ensembles

- *Set-Up Time and Sound Check Time:* Open ensembles will be allotted time to set up instrumentation/audio and to sound check. The exact timings will be communicated to Open Semi-Finalist ensembles in April. All U-M equipment specified for the auditioning ensemble will be in the center of the audition space or organized according to a stage plot prior to the start of set-up/sound check time. Set-up/sound check time will not begin until U-M percussion liaisons confirm that all requested equipment is present in the space.
- *Tech Personnel:* A U-M audio technician and percussion manager/liaison will be present during the set-up and sound check time. The ensemble will guide the set-up and sound-check time and may utilize U-M personnel at their discretion.
- *Verbal Consent:* Please nominate a member from your group to verbally confirm that your equipment and sound is ready prior to audition start time. Each ensemble will be prompted 5 minutes prior to audition start time to address any last concerns and confirm preparedness.
- *Program Introduction:* For your Semi-Finals and Finals auditions, at least one member of your ensemble is required to speak from the stage, introducing your ensemble, your members, and what you will be playing to the audience. The jury will know this information, but this is your opportunity to connect with the audience and share this information with them. Keep the introduction under 90 seconds, and your audition timing will begin after your 90 second introduction.
- *Timing:* Your program time (Juniors: 15 min (Semis) or 20 min (Finals)); Seniors: 20 min (Semis) or 30 min (Finals)) will begin immediately after your 90 second introduction. Make any **brief** adjustments to set-up or tuning prior to the start of your spoken introduction. Timing warnings may be signaled by the Jury Advisor when you have 30 seconds remaining in your introduction and when you have 1 minute remaining in your audition performance. The Jury Advisor will cut you off by clapping when the audition is finished.

## M-Prize Youth Engagement Round (Senior Division Semi-Finals Only)

- The Youth Engagement Round provides the opportunity for Senior Division Semi-Finalist ensembles to demonstrate their commitment to and impact on different audiences. The jury will adjudicate a group's performance presentation based on how effectively they connect with and create a relevant learning experience for a children's audience.
- Each Senior Division Semi-Finalist ensemble will have 5-10 minutes to present to, perform for and/or engage with their young audience. There will be 2 minutes of transition time between ensembles, and the entire performance will run under 90 minutes.
- The Youth Engagement Round will occur prior to the Semi-Final audition rounds. The overall implication on scoring will be 10 - 20% for the Semi-Finals round.

## M-Prize Grand Prize Audition Structure (Senior Division Only):

### Interview Round

- For the interview round, ensemble members will give a 5 minute presentation that describes the ensemble's curatorial vision.
- Your presentation might address one or more of the following areas of chamber arts practice: artistry, repertoire, audience engagement, multidisciplinary, or community service.



- Following your presentation, you will be interviewed in front of the judging panel by members of the SMTD Department of Entrepreneurship & Leadership. The presentation and interview segment combined will last 30 minutes for each ensemble.
- Scoring for the Interview Round will be weighted as 10% of the final score to determine the 2018 M-Prize winner.

### **Grand Prize Gala Concert Round**

- At the conclusion of the Finals Award announcement, the three first prize laureates from each senior category will meet with Artistic Director, Matt Albert, to go over expectations for programming for the Grand Prize Gala Concert.
- Each ensemble will be allotted a total of 25 minutes on the Grand Prize Gala Concert Program. This round of competition is in concert format, not audition format, and the ensemble will choose the entirety of their repertoire from their submitted 60-75 minute repertoire list.
- Music on this program may be repeated from the Semi-Final or Final Rounds; however, the program must also include the piece/movement/work reserved for the Gala Concert.
- Repertoire should demonstrate the breadth and depth of the ensemble's abilities, and programming will be considered in adjudication.
- Scoring for the Grand Prize Gala Concert will be weighted as 90% of the final score to determine the 2018 M-Prize winner.

### **Recusals:**

- To maintain the utmost equity amongst competing ensembles, the following protocol will be followed regarding conflicts of interest between ensembles and members of the jury. This protocol applies to adjudication for both the Screening and Live rounds of the M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition.
- Jury members have been asked to disclose any previous contact with competitors that may impact equitability in the adjudication process. Recusals must be disclosed by:
  - Any juror who is in a current artistic collaboration with an individual competitor will be recused from judging that competitor's ensemble.
  - Any juror who is currently or has been within the past two years (since May 1, 2016) the private teacher (ongoing, not master class or festival) for an individual competitor will be recused from judging that competitor's ensemble.
  - Any juror who is currently or has been within the past two years (since May 1, 2016) the primary chamber music coach (ongoing, not master class or festival) for an entire ensemble (every member in its current configuration) will be recused from judging that ensemble.
  - Any juror who is a professional colleague with an entire ensemble in a long-term contract (ongoing, not guest artist) at an institution (e.g. ensemble in residence) will be recused from judging that ensemble.
  - Any other relationship -- personal, past student/teacher older than two years, current institutional colleagues with an individual member of an ensemble, or other -- should be disclosed and will be considered for recusal in discussion with the Artistic Director.

- All recusals will be communicated to all members of the jury and to all groups competing in categories/divisions affected by the recusals.

**Additional Information:**

- *Leaving Instruments:* Each ensemble will have a designated rehearsal room in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Please remember that this is a public space and although these rooms will be monitored, U-M is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- *Printing:* M-Prize Staff is unable to print music for Semi-Finalists. The Holiday Inn Business Center or FedEx Kinkos on Plymouth Road can provide printing services.
- *Backstage Visitor Policy:* All Junior Semi-Finalists are required to have one adult accompany the group. No other personnel outside of the appointed adult and the semi-finalists will be allowed into the on-deck and green rooms. For Senior Semi-Finalists, no other personnel will be allowed into the on-deck or green rooms. If you are travelling with significant others, children or family, please alert them of this policy. All auditions are open to the public.

**Contact Personnel:**

- Artistic concerns should be directed to Artistic Director, Matt Albert. Administrative concerns should be directed to Program Director, Heather Kendrick.

**Conditions:**

All information is subject to change.

For questions regarding the competition, contact Heather at [mprizedirector@umich.edu](mailto:mprizedirector@umich.edu).