

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

M-Prize aims to:

- Identify and showcase the highest caliber of international chamber arts ensembles
- Provide a world-class performance and adjudication platform for the chamber arts
- Launch and advance the careers of chamber ensembles through prizes, visibility, and professional development opportunities
- Evolve the breadth and depth of the chamber arts landscape and associated professional opportunities for exceptional ensembles

**Application Deadline: February 1, 2017, 11:59PM EST. Absolutely no applications will be accepted after the deadline.**

After reviewing applications in the Preliminary Rounds, our Screening Jury of internationally renowned artists will select approximately 36 ensembles to compete in the live Semi-Final and Final rounds of competition from May 1 - 4, 2017, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Semi-Finalists will be notified of their status by Friday, March 10, 2017.

Semi-Finalists are responsible for their own travel and accommodations. Semi-Finalists should plan to travel and rehearse on May 1, 2017; adjudicated competition rounds will begin on May 2, 2017. All rounds of competition will be completed by 10PM EST on Thursday, May 4, 2017.

## **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 4, 2017.
  - 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 2017-18 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 2017-18 academic year\***

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<sup>1</sup> Tax consequences may arise for winning ensembles.

- **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 2017-18 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. Laureates will be compensated for travel expenses.

### **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. The Grand Prize Round of M-Prize will be broadcast on Detroit Public Television and made available to PBS stations.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- All ensemble members competing in the Junior Division must not have reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by May 1, 2017.
- 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 41<sup>st</sup> birthday by May 1, 2017.
- 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, and/or visual media; ensembles whose work contains a significant amount of improvisation including, but not limited to, jazz, bluegrass, world music, and/or free improvisation)
- Ensembles must have 2-10 members with one member per part. 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 with the University of Michigan during this academic year (2016-2017). (Current School of Music, Theatre & Dance students are eligible.)

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- Online Application Requirements
  - Apply online at [mprize.umich.edu](http://mprize.umich.edu)
  - Create a Google Drive<sup>2</sup> folder titled [Your Ensemble Name]. The folder must include the following:
    - Preliminary Round Video Audition files
      - 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.
    - Current ensemble biography in PDF format
    - Comprehensive repertoire list for the ensemble in PDF format
    - High resolution ensemble photograph (.jpg)
    - Proof of Age for each ensemble member (e.g., valid Driver's License, birth certificate copy)
  - 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>.
  - 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.

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<sup>2</sup> If needed, additional Google Drive storage can be purchased for a nominal fee. Visit <https://www.google.com/settings/storage>.

- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- **PLEASE READ: Google Drive Instructions**
  - To ensure the Google Drive folder is approved for sharing and viewing:
    - Choose “Get Sharable Link” from the folder’s drop-down menu (just below search bar at the top). In the corner, make sure link sharing is ON by confirming the switch is colored green and moved to the right.
    - Go to “Sharing Settings” and select “Anyone with the link can access.” (If this is not visible, click the Down Arrow in the center of the screen.)
      - Click “More”
      - Select “On - Anyone with the link”
      - Save
    - Once completed, copy link and include in the respective section of the online application.

## **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 prepare a 60-75 minute program 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.
  - Junior Division: Ensembles should prepare a 30-40 minute program 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.
- Repertoire for the Semi-Final, Final, and M-Prize rounds will be finalized after Semi-Finalists are notified of their status on March 10, 2017.
- No changes to repertoire may be made after April 10, 2017.

## HOW THE AUDITIONS WILL OCCUR:

- **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 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 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 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 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. Music on this program may be repeated from the Semi-Final or Final Rounds; however, the program must also include at least one piece not yet performed during any M-Prize round. Repertoire should demonstrate the breadth and depth of the ensemble's abilities, and programming will be considered in adjudication.
- **NEW: Interview Round**
  - Prior to the Grand Prize Gala Concert, each Senior 1st Place Laureate ensemble (strings, winds, and open) will be interviewed, as a group, for 20-30 minutes. The interview should begin with a 6-8 minute presentation from the ensemble that illustrates the Laureate ensemble's curatorial vision. A moderator will follow-up with questions, both from the moderator and the jury, that clarify and amplify the issues, priorities, and visions offered by the Laureate ensembles.

## CONDITIONS

All information is subject to change.

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