

M-Prize Competition Guidelines

Welcome to M-Prize, an international chamber arts* competition based in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan's 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 is Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 11:59PM EST. Absolutely no applications will be accepted after the deadline.

After reviewing applications in the Preliminary Rounds, our screening committee of internationally renowned artists will select approximately 36 ensembles to compete in the live Semi-Final and Final rounds of competition from May 17-19, 2016, in Ann Arbor. **Semi-Finalists will be notified of their status by Friday, April 8, 2016.**

Semi-Finalists are responsible for their own travel and accommodations. [The Holiday Inn® Near the University of Michigan](#) (3600 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105) is the official host hotel of the 2016 M-Prize Competition and will provide a block rate of \$99.00/night. See the website links for booking instructions and amenities. The nearest airport is [Detroit Metropolitan Airport](#), located 25 miles from the host hotel. Semi-Finalists should plan to travel and rehearse on May 17, 2016; adjudicated competition rounds will begin on May 18, 2016. All rounds of competition will be complete by 8PM EST on Thursday, May 19, 2016. Meals and ground transportation from the hotel to venues will be provided. For further travel and/or accommodation inquiries, please contact mprizedirector@umich.edu.

PRIZES[†]

Senior Division Prizes (Average Age 19-35)

- **Grand Prize: \$100,000 and Performance on UMS Chamber Arts Series**
 - The M-Prize Winner is selected from one of three 1st Place Laureate Ensembles during the Gala Concert at Hill Auditorium on May 19, 2016.
 - 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:**
 - **1st Place Laureate Ensemble: \$20,000****
 - **2nd Place Laureate Ensemble: \$7,000**
 - **3rd Place Laureate Ensemble: \$3,000**
- **Winds:**

* During its inaugural year, M-Prize will focus on chamber music, but in ensuing years it plans to

[†] Tax consequences may arise for winning ensembles.

- **1st Place Laureate Ensemble: \$20,000****
 - **2nd Place Laureate Ensemble: \$7,000**
 - **3rd Place Laureate Ensemble: \$3,000**
 - **Open:**
 - **1st Place Laureate Ensemble: \$20,000****
 - **2nd Place Laureate Ensemble: \$7,000**
 - **3rd Place Laureate Ensemble: \$3,000**
- ** The \$20,000 Senior Division Award that an ensemble receives as a 1st Place Laureate Ensemble is part of the Grand Prize and not additional to the \$100,000.

Junior Division Prizes (Ages 18 and under)

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

Additional professional development opportunities may be awarded and may include, but are not limited to, performances and residencies. The Final Rounds 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 19th birthday by May 17, 2016.
- The average age of an ensemble competing in the Senior Division must be between 19 to 35 years of age, with no individual member over 40 years of age. Senior Division ensembles may contain members younger than 19 years of age.
- 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 3-8 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 (2015-2016). (This includes ensembles who have one or more members who have performed, presented a masterclass, and/or otherwise provided services for the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, paid or unpaid. Current School of Music, Theatre & Dance students are eligible.)

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Online Application Requirements
 - DecisionDesk Profile available at mprize.umich.edu
 - Current ensemble biography and member biographies in PDF format
 - Ensemble repertoire list and two examples of prior programs in PDF format
 - Intended Repertoire for Semi-Final, Final, and Grand Prize Rounds
 - High resolution ensemble photograph (.jpg, .gif)
 - Application fee of \$50 *per ensemble member*
- Preliminary Round Video Audition Requirements
 - Video must be uploaded to the ensemble's DecisionDesk Profile.
 - Each video file should contain only one piece and include the composition's title and composer's name (DecisionDesk will ask for this information upon uploading via Title and Description boxes). The length of uploaded videos should equal the total number of minutes specified in the full repertoire requirements.
 - All members of the group must perform in each recorded selection.
 - Videos must not be edited in any way.
 - Please allow sufficient time to prepare and upload videos.
 - See full repertoire requirements for further guidelines
- Intended Repertoire for Semi-Final, Final, and Grand Prize Rounds
 - Repertoire for the Semi-Final, Final, and M-Prize rounds will be finalized after Semi-Finalists are notified of their status on April 8, 2016.
 - No Changes to repertoire may be made after April 22, 2016.
 - See full repertoire requirements for further guidelines
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

FULL REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

- **Preliminary Round Video**
 - Senior Division: 30-minute program that demonstrates contrasting repertoire and/or styles.
 - Junior Division: 15-minute program that demonstrates contrasting repertoire and/or styles.

- Repertoire included in this video may be repeated in either the Semi-Final or Final rounds, but not both.
- All members of the group must perform in each recorded selection.
- **Semi-Finals (Live in Ann Arbor)**
 - Senior Division: 20-25 minute program that demonstrates contrasting repertoire and/or styles (inclusive of time between sections and not to exceed 25 minutes).
 - Junior Division: 15-20 minute program that demonstrates contrasting repertoire and/or styles (inclusive of time between sections and not exceed 20 minutes).
- **Finals (Live in Ann Arbor)**
 - Senior Division: 40-45 minute program that demonstrates the best qualities of the ensemble (inclusive of time between sections and not to exceed 45 minutes). Programming will be considered in adjudication.
 - Junior Division: 20-25 minute program that demonstrates the best qualities of the ensemble (inclusive of time between sections and not to exceed 25 minutes). Programming will be considered in adjudication.
- **Grand Prize (Senior Division Only)**
 - A 20-25 minute program that demonstrates the best qualities of the ensemble (inclusive of time between sections and not to exceed 25 minutes). A variety of range is encouraged and programming will be considered in the adjudication. Some music on this program may be repeated from Semi-Final or Final Rounds; however, the program must also include repertoire not yet performed during any M-Prize round.

For questions regarding repertoire requirements, please contact mprizedirector@umich.edu well in advance of the application deadline.

CONDITIONS

All information is subject to change. A final schedule will be posted and available in Spring 2016.

For questions regarding the competition and/or application process, contact mprizedirector@umich.edu.