



# THE LEEDS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

## RULES & REGULATIONS 2024

### 1. COMPETITION DATES

- 1.1. The Leeds International Piano Competition 2024 (21<sup>st</sup> Edition) will take place as follows:  
Applications Close: 23:59 (GMT), 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023  
International First Round: 2-7 April 2024  
Second Round: 11-13 September 2024  
Semi-finals: 15-17 September 2024  
Finals: 20 & 21 September 2024

### 2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. The Leeds International Piano Competition (The Leeds) is open to pianists of all nationalities born on or between 22 September 1994 and 2 April 2004.
- 2.2. All applications must include references which support their readiness for a professional career as a pianist and specifically recommend the Applicant for The Leeds.
- 2.3. Prize-winners of previous editions of The Leeds are not eligible to compete.
- 2.4. A reserve list of competitors will be chosen.

### 3. APPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Applications open 22 July 2023.
- 3.2. Applications close at 23.59 GMT on 31 October 2023.
- 3.3. A non-refundable application fee of GBP £150 is payable.
- 3.4. Applications must be made online via [Acceptd.com](https://www.acceptd.com)

## 4. JURIES

### 4.1. Pre-selection:

Adam Gatehouse  
Katya Apekisheva  
Charles Owen  
Lucy Parham  
Clare Hammond

A panel of 5, chaired by Artistic Director Adam Gatehouse, will be responsible for selecting the 60 Competitors to advance to the First Round from the applications received.

### 4.2. International First Round:

An International Jury of 4, chaired by Artistic Director Adam Gatehouse, will be responsible for selecting the 24 Competitors from the International First Round to advance to the Second Round in Leeds. The International First Round jury will include:

Adam Gatehouse  
Noriko Ogawa  
Tom Poster  
Nino Gvetadze

### 4.3. Second Round, Semi-finals and Finals:

An international Jury of 9 eminent musicians and specialists from the world of classical music will be chaired by Imogen Cooper:

Dame Imogen Cooper (Jury Chair)  
Adam Gatehouse (Artistic Director)  
Eleanor Alberga  
Mariam Batsashvili  
Sa Chen  
Till Fellner  
Ingrid Fliter  
Pavel Kolesnikov  
Adrian Brendel

## 5. APPLICATION

- 5.1. All applications must be submitted online at: <https://app.getacceptd.com/leedspiano>
- 5.2. Applications may be submitted commencing 22 July 2023 and not later than 23:59 (GMT) on 31 October 2023.
- 5.3. A non-refundable application fee of £150 is payable online upon submission of the completed application.

- 5.4. Applicants must submit unedited audio files of a programme lasting no less than 20 minutes and no more than 25 minutes of contrasting repertoire (piano solo works only). \*For details see Repertoire
- 5.5. The programme should be recorded professionally in one single session each piece with its own track clearly identifying repertoire movements and duration. Poor quality recordings may result in an application being disqualified.
- 5.6. We recommend uploading WAV files or MP3 files encoded in stereo and at least 256kpbs. Uploadable file formats include MP3 OGG M4A WMA WAV AAC FLAC.
- 5.7. Applications must be accompanied by a signed certification from the producer or sound engineer stating that recording is unedited and has been made within 6 months of its submission. Postproduction handling that affects the acoustic quality of the recording (such as bias, equalisation and noise reduction) is permitted but must be stated. With the recording, please supply precise details of the music and movements recorded, including durations.
- 5.8. Video/ audio-visual files are not permitted.
- 5.9. The audio files of any Applicant whose application is not complete or in accordance with the rules, will not be heard by the Pre-selection Panel.
- 5.10. By submitting an application online and subsequently participating in the Competition, the Applicant accepts and agrees to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Competition.
- 5.11. If an Applicant encounters technical problems during their online application, check out the GetAcceptd [HELP DESK](#) for frequently asked questions or contact the support team at [support@getacceptd.com](mailto:support@getacceptd.com) or by calling 1-888-725-2125.

## **6. REQUISITE DOCUMENTS**

- 6.1. \*Wherever possible English translations should be provided.  
You will be asked to provide the following:
  1. A scan of the Applicant's passport page evidencing date of birth.
  2. Two good quality photographs (at least 300dpi) of the Applicant to be used for press and programme reproduction. Photographs should be suitable for publicity purposes, and at least one photograph must be a headshot.
  3. Biography (curriculum vitae), listing details of musical education (schools, teachers and relevant dates), prizes won at other Competitions and any additional information such as repertoire, concerts and masterclasses you have participated in. Documents may be checked for accuracy.

4. 2 scanned letters of reference in support of the application must be supplied. The references should be obtained from musicians of international standing, and should recommend the Applicant for The Leeds specifically, and their readiness for a professional career as a pianist. References must be in English and signed at the bottom of the letter. Contact details for the referees should be provided.
5. A signed certification stating the date and place of recording, details of postproduction handling and that the recording is unedited.
6. A statement to confirm whether the Applicant has any existing agreements with artist representation agencies or recording companies.

## **7. BROADCAST & RIGHTS**

- 7.1. The Competition will be recorded and live-streamed on various channels including medici.tv, YouTube and the Finals will be broadcast on BBC Four. A major element of the prize package is the selection by Warner Classics of one of the top three Prize-winners as a promoted artist ("Warner Chosen Artist"), with whom Warner Classics will release an album of Competition recordings immediately after the Competition ends.
- 7.2. The Competitor assigns to The Leeds with full title guarantee all copyrights and any other rights owned and/or controlled by the Competitor (including but not limited to performer's property rights) in perpetuity throughout the world in and to any and all audio and audio-visual recordings made of the Competitor's performances in The Leeds ("Recordings"). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, The Leeds shall be entitled (and any third parties authorised by The Leeds shall be entitled) to film, photograph, record, broadcast, live stream, reproduce, transmit, play, show, televise, sell, manufacture and/or otherwise use the Recordings as the Leeds deems fit. The Competitor grants to The Leeds all consents under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1998 as are necessary for The Leeds (and any third parties authorised by The Leeds) to make the fullest possible use of the Recordings. The Leeds shall be entitled to transfer, assign or licence its rights in the Recordings to third parties.
- 7.3. The Competitor hereby grants to The Leeds (and The Leeds' assignees and licensees) the non-exclusive right to use the Competitor's professional and legal name(s), likenesses, photographs and biographical material in connection with the exercise of the grant of rights herein.

- 7.4. Each Competitor who progress to the 2nd Round will sign an agreement with The Leeds , to confirm, inter alia, that there are no other previous agreements or arrangements between the Competitor and any third party which could in any way restrict The Leeds' right to use the Recordings and its ability to licence or assign its rights in the Recordings to third parties; and if the Competitor is chosen as the Warner Chosen Artist then the chosen Competitor shall be available to Warner Classics for promotional appearances and commitments for a period of at least 1 month following the conclusion of the LIPC ("Participation Agreement").
- 7.5. The International First Round will be recorded in its entirety and the film of the 24 pianists who are invited to participate in the Second Round will be streamed online at a future date.
- 7.6. All Competitors will be sent a copy of their performances International First Round, Second Round and Semi-finals performances. This may be used for any non-commercial purposes, subject to The Leeds receiving a credit. Competitors will receive these recordings within one month of ending their participation in the Competition.
- 7.7. The Concerto Finals will be live-streamed and broadcast. Usage of media from the Concerto Finals is restricted due to contractual obligations. However, permission will be granted to share and embed the Concerto Finals footage from The Leeds YouTube channel on their own online platforms.
- 7.8. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Competitor chosen as the Warner Chosen Artist will have restrictions on the use of any recordings issued under licence by Warner Classics.

## **8. PIANOS & PRACTICE FACILITIES**

- 8.1. All pianos used throughout Competition performances are provided and maintained exclusively by Steinway & Sons. The hosts of our Leeds-based practice facilities (University of Leeds School of Music and Leeds College of Music) are both accredited Steinway Schools.
- 8.2. Practice facilities are arranged for every Competitor and for each venue. The practice schedule is organised by the Competitor Director and shared with each individual Competitor ahead of their arrival.
- 8.3. A warm-up piano is arranged for 30 minutes immediately prior to performance.
- 8.4. No Competitor may receive lessons, from their teacher or others, either in person or online, during the Competition rounds in Leeds.

## **9. COMPETITION STAGES**

- 9.1. All performances are open to the public.
- 9.2. Competitors who are not ready to perform in all Rounds when called upon by the Jury may be disqualified.
- 9.3. Any Competitor who makes an attempt, or on whose behalf any attempt is made, to communicate with any member of the Jury in any Round may be disqualified.

## **10. PRE-SELECTION**

- 10.1. The Pre-Selection Panel will select 60 pianists to advance to the International First Round.
- 10.2. Competitors must offer a solo recital programme of between 20 and 25 minutes. \*For details see Repertoire
- 10.3. Applicants will be informed of the decisions of the Pre-Selection Panel on 4 December 2023 by email. The decision of the Pre-Selection Panel is final. We are unable to provide feedback due to the volume of applicants.
- 10.4. Competitors who advance to the International First Round will be required to complete the following signed declaration:  
I, the undersigned, admitted to The Leeds 21st Edition 2024 declare that I have read the rules of the Competition and that I accept them, including the provision of Section 17.4 in relation to the collection, processing and transmission of my data.  
I agree to abide by these rules and declare that either (i) there is no consideration required in relation to Section 1.7 of the Jury rules (ii) that Jury Member..... is (has been) my teacher (as defined in Section 1.7 of the Jury Rules and Regulations).

## **11. INTERNATIONAL FIRST ROUND**

- 11.1. 60 pianists will compete in the International First Round.
- 11.2. The order of performance at each venue is dependent upon scheduling as organised by the Competitor Director.
- 11.3. Competitors must offer a solo recital programme lasting no longer than 25 minutes. \*For details see Repertoire
- 11.4. The International First Round Jury will select 24 pianists to advance to the Second Round in Leeds in September 2024. Applicants will be informed by email of the results by 1 May 2024. The decision of the International Round Jury is final. We are unable to provide feedback due to the volume of applicants.

- 11.5. Applicants selected to advance to the Second Round will be required to provide repertoire details after notification of their selection. No changes can be made after 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.
- 11.6. Applicants selected to advance to the Second Round will be required to sign a Competitor's Code of Conduct.

## **12. SECOND ROUND**

- 12.1. The International First Round Jury will select 24 pianists to advance to the Second Round.
- 12.2. All Competitors **MUST** arrive for registration at The University of Leeds by 5pm on Monday 9 September and attend a meeting to be held at 7pm.
- 12.3. Competitors must offer a choice of two contrasting solo recital programmes lasting no longer than 40 minutes. \*For details see Repertoire
- 12.4. Order of Performance for the Second Round will be drawn by lots in the presence of the voting official. The Competition organisers will first of all ensure that a letter of the alphabet is drawn by lot, starting from which individual Competitors will draw in turn, by alphabetical order, to establish their order of performance. All Competitors are required to attend the drawing of lots. If a Competitor cannot attend the draw owing to circumstances beyond their control, they must contact the Competition Director at least 48 hours before the draw, and at the Competitor's written request the voting official will draw lots on the Competitor's behalf. The Competitor will then be informed immediately of the date and time at which they must present themselves for their Second Round Performance.
- 12.5. The Jury will select 10 pianists to advance to the Semi-finals. Results will be announced by the Chair of the Jury following the Jury deliberation after the last performance on Friday 13 September.
- 12.6. Following elimination from the Second Round, Competitors will participate in The Leeds 'Competitor +' Programme. This will offer personal Jury feedback, further performance opportunities, career development sessions and social events with other Competitors and audience.

## **13. SEMI-FINAL**

- 13.1. The Jury will advance 10 pianists to compete in the Semi-final Round.
- 13.2. Competitors must offer a choice of two mixed programmes consisting of solo and chamber works lasting no longer than 75 minutes. \*For details see Repertoire

- 13.3. Results will be announced by the Chair of the Jury following the Jury deliberation after the last performance on Tuesday 17 September.
- 13.4. Following elimination from the Semi-finals, Competitors will participate in The Leeds 'Competitor +' Programme. This will offer personal jury feedback, further performance opportunities and social events with other Competitors and audience, including attending the Finals.

## **14. CONCERTO FINALS**

- 14.1. The Jury will advance 5 pianists to compete in the Concerto Finals Round.
- 14.2. Competitors must offer a choice of two Concertos drawn from two separate groups. \*For details see Repertoire
- 14.3. The Concerto Finals will be accompanied by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Domingo Hindoyan.
- 14.4. The Artistic Director and Chair of the Jury, in consultation with Domingo Hindoyan, will determine the order of performance of the Concerti over the two Finals nights, taking into consideration timing and programme balance over the two nights.
- 14.5. During the period running up to the Concerto Finals, each Competitor will have a personal meeting with the conductor, Domingo Hindoyan, a rehearsal with the orchestra at their rehearsal venue in Liverpool, and a dress rehearsal at St.George's Hall, Bradford on the day of their performance.

## **15. VISAS**

- 15.1. Competitors must complete all visa paperwork and provide copies of documents to the Competitor Director no later than 7th July 2024.
- 15.2. Competitors should make early requests for supporting evidence / letter of invitation when a visa is required and make contact with the appropriate Embassy in your country of residence.
- 15.3. Competitors with a non-EEA passport will require a standard visitor visa before entering the UK. To check whether you require a visa, please visit: [www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)
- 15.4. Competitors needing a standard visitor visa to enter the UK should obtain one from the British Government website: [www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa](http://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa)



## **16. TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION**

### **INTERNATIONAL ROUND**

- 16.1. Each Competitor will choose a preferred first and second choice venue for the International First Round. The Competition organisers will endeavour to schedule preferences and performance times with each Competitor's reasonable preference. Practical considerations however may mean that Competitors may be invited to play in an alternative location.
- 16.2. Travel expenses and accommodation incurred during the International First Round are the sole responsibility of the Competitor.
- 16.3. Bursaries are available for those who may be prevented from participating because of financial difficulties. Details are available from the Competitor Director.

### **LEEDS**

- 16.4. Travel expenses incurred for the return journey to and from Leeds are the sole responsibility of the Competitor.
- 16.5. Competitors should arrive in Leeds on Sunday 8 September to allow for travel weariness and to ensure adequate practice schedules ahead of performances from 11 September.
- 16.6. Competitors will be met upon arrival in Leeds and transported to their accommodation.
- 16.7. Ground transport from accommodation to venues will be provided if not within walking distance.
- 16.8. Full board (meals and accommodation) will be provided for all Competitors at the University of Leeds residences, a short distance from the performance venues.
- 16.9. Competitors who choose to participate in the Competitor + Programme, will receive full board for the duration of the rest of the Competition.
- 16.10. Competitors who chose to leave after the 2nd Round will need to vacate their accommodation by 11am on Sunday 15 September.

## **17. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- 17.1. By applying to take part in the Competition, Competitors indicate their acceptance of the rules of The Leeds 21st Edition. This includes agreeing to perform in all the Rounds into which a Competitor is selected to participate by the Jury, and in all ceremonies and recitals resulting from these Rounds and Prizes awarded.
- 17.2. Where applicable, prize monies are taxable by HMRC and UK tax will be deducted prior to payment.

- 17.3. Competitors shall not be required, in the framework of the Competition, to make any financial contribution other than the application fee.
- 17.4. During the application process, the Competition collects detailed personal data on the Applicants, this data being necessary for the various procedures of the Competition and for monitoring purposes. The data is held on a secure database and only the following information is made public: family name, first name, date and place of birth, nationality, biography, photographs, personal website and social media handles. The unpublished information is not shared with third parties. Competitors have a right to view their data, and they can request, in writing, to have their data amended or refuse permission for its use once the Competition has ended.
- 17.5. The Leeds is committed to developing ourselves as a more equal and diverse organisation. Therefore, we monitor and statistically analyse the demographics of our staff, artists, trustees and volunteers, including gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disabilities. You are invited to provide this information, at your option. Any information provided does not form part of an application and is not linked to individual records. All data is separated and anonymised.

---

All information is, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of publication. The Leeds International Piano Competition reserves the right to make changes.