

WPTA Canada, Composition - International Pianist-Composer Competition

World Piano Teacher's Association (WPTA) Canada warmly invites your participation in their inaugural International Pianist-Composer Competition. Open to participants from the age of fifteen, with no age or nationality limits, this competition will be held in an Online Edition with a manageable entry fee to support emerging pianist-composers. Please read the following information, found on pages 2-4 for rules and regulations.

As a member of the prestigious Alink-Argerich Foundation, WPTA International is committed to achieving worldwide recognition for musicians. Whether this is your first ever composition, or your 100th, we welcome your submission to continue in the storied tradition of pianist-composers.

This year, we are excited to introduce a special category: "TRUE NORTH AWARD", dedicated to works on Canadian themes.

2025-26 Competition Jury:

Patrick Holcomb

Ronn Yedidia

George N. Gianopoulos

Matthew Krell

Contest application opens: April 1, 2025

Contest application submission **extended deadline:** February 1, 2026

Laureates announced: February 20, 2026

Winners will be awarded cash prizes, a studio recording of their winning piece, and a composition lesson/consultation with one of the esteemed jury members.

Awards will be conferred as follows:

First place (\$500), Second place (\$250), and Third place (\$175)

TRUE NORTH AWARD (\$200)

Competition Rules

1. Medium. All compositions must be written for **solo piano** and submitted with a video performance by the composer. The score should be submitted as a PDF and by typeset using industry standard notation software including Dorico, Sibelius, Finale, or MuseScore.
The video recording must be unedited, single-frame, and feature the best available sound capturing technology. [Compositions performed by musicians other than the composer are ineligible for entry and disqualified without refund.]
2. Application fee: \$15 per entry. Multiple entries are allowed with no additional fees.
3. Age limit. The minimum age for entry is 15 years of age as of the competition deadline (August 15, 2025), having been born on or before August 15, 2010. There is no upper age limit.
4. Time limit. The submission may feature multiple short works ranging from 3-12 minutes in length, or be one continuous work ranging 3-12 minutes.
5. Genre. The composition may draw upon stylistic influences from any period of music history. Extended techniques are welcomed.
6. True North Award. For a composition to be eligible for the True North Award, it must clearly demonstrate a link to one or more of the following:
 - Canadian locations, natural or manmade
 - Canadian poetry, art, or music
 - Canadian musicians
 - Canadian history
 At the discretion of the jury, it can be awarded to any of the entries and not limited to the three award-winners.
7. Originality. Any submission that draws upon existing material (e.g. an arrangement of *Land of the Silver Birch* or Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*) must be sufficiently unique to satisfy the competition's goal of fostering new talent and promoting their work to an international audience.
8. Scoring. The jury will independently evaluate submissions and provide the following mathematical tabulations:

1] Composition: 60 possible points

A. Creativity & Musicality (20 points)

Originality of themes and motifs
 Emotional depth and expressive qualities
 Effective use of contrast, phrasing, and dynamic shaping
 Stylistic coherence (while allowing for innovation within classical idioms)

B. Craftsmanship & Technical Execution (20 points)

Harmonic and contrapuntal sophistication
 Logical and effective development of ideas
 Structural integrity (form, balance, transitions)
 Pianistic writing (idiomatic use of the instrument, utilization of timbre, effective voicing)

C. Notation & Presentation (20 points)

Clarity and professionalism of the score (engraving, readability, and formatting)
 Precision in articulations, dynamics, and expressive markings
 Absence of errors in notation, rhythm, or key signatures

2] Performance: 40 possible points

The performance evaluation focuses on the execution and interpretation of the composition, as presented in the submitted video. This section assesses the performer's technical skill, accuracy, and interpretive depth. While efforts will be made to overlook technical inequities in video quality, higher quality recordings (e.g., clear audio and visuals) will likely enhance the jury's ability to evaluate the following aspects with greater ease and precision.

A. Technical Mastery & Fluency (14 points)

Precision in executing notes, rhythms, and tempos as notated
 Control and consistency of tone production (e.g., evenness, clarity, and projection)
 Facility in navigating technically demanding passages (e.g., dexterity, speed, and coordination)
 Smoothness of transitions between sections or phrases

B. Accuracy & Fidelity to the Score (14 points)

Adherence to the written dynamics, articulations, and expressive markings
 Correct realization of pitches, rhythms, and harmonic intent
 Appropriate tempo choices that align with the score's indications and stylistic context
 Minimal deviations or errors in performance relative to the notated composition

C. Interpretation & Musical Expression (12 points)

Depth of emotional communication and connection to the composition's intent

Effective use of rubato, dynamics, and phrasing to enhance musicality

Ability to highlight thematic material and structural elements through performance choices

Personal conviction and individuality in interpretation (while respecting the composer's vision)

D. TRUE NORTH AWARD

Awarded to the submission with the highest points which clearly demonstrates an artistic connection to Canadian themes as prescribed above.

9. Exceptions. Please email the organization for any questions regarding discrepancies or technical issues that arise during the submission process.

We encourage all aspiring or established pianists and composers to participate in this prestigious event, which celebrates the rich pianistic heritage of Canadian artists such as Glenn Gould, Oscar Peterson, Angela Hewitt, Marc-André Hamelin and many more.

Our best regards,

Dr. Matthew Krell

President, WPTA Canada-Composition