

# 2021 CLIBURN COMPETITION JURY, VENUES, FORMAT, COMPOSER, ARTISTIC COLLABORATORS ANNOUNCED; APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW

*The Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition takes place May 27–June 12, 2021, at Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU and Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, Texas USA.*

*For immediate release*

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**FORT WORTH, Texas, October 15, 2019**—The Cliburn announces the major elements of the **Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition**, taking place **May 27–June 12, 2021**, in Fort Worth, Texas USA. [Applications are open now](#) and are due October 15, 2020. *Please note the slight date change from previous announcements.*

“As we prepare for each competition, we carefully evaluate each element in order to constantly improve,” said Cliburn President and CEO Jacques Marquis. “How can we attract the top competitors? Which international artists can we bring onto the jury and into the Cliburn family? How can we best inform the jurors’ decisions through the performances that the competitors give? How can we reach more and more people with classical music? What can we offer our winners to better support them into their careers?”

The result of much of that work is below, with more announcements to come over the next 19 months.

- The **outstanding jury** comprises some of the best performing pianists of our time; **nine of the 10 are new** to the Cliburn jury.
- We’ve added an **additional concerto in the Final Round**, replacing the chamber music; we believe this will give the jury a better artistic picture of the young musicians and also help the competitors develop the repertoire that is important for their careers.
- And we are pleased to be returning to **TCU**, the Cliburn’s original home: we will be presenting the first two rounds of Competition at their brand-new **Van Cliburn Concert Hall**, before moving to Bass Performance Hall for the Semifinals and Finals.

“We are setting the foundation for a fantastic 2021 Competition.”—Jacques Marquis

## COMPETITION JURY

For biographies, please click [HERE](#).

To download hi-res images, click [HERE](#).

The assembled jury—nine of whom are new to the Cliburn Competition—represents some of the most prominent voices in piano today, whose active careers and exceptional artistry continue to help shape the landscape of classical music.

- Marin Alsop, jury chairman (United States)
- Jean-Efflam Bavouzet (France)
- Rico Gulda (Austria)
- Andreas Haefliger (Switzerland)
- Wu Han (Taiwan/United States)
- Stephen Hough (United Kingdom)
- Anne-Marie McDermott (United States)
- Gabriela Montero (Venezuela)
- Orli Shaham (Israel/United States)
- Lilya Zilberstein (Russia)

### SCREENING JURY

For biographies, please click [HERE](#).

To download hi-res images, click [HERE](#).

All members of the panel combine distinguished performance careers with a commitment to nurturing the next generation of artists. The screening jury will travel for 5 weeks in January and February 2021 to select the 30 competitors from a large pool of applicants.

- Angela Cheng (Canada)
- Arnaldo Cohen (Brazil)
- Christopher Elton (United Kingdom)
- Alexander Kobrin (Russia)
- Anton Nel (United States)

### COMMISSIONED WORK

In addition to serving on the jury, renowned pianist, composer, and one of Twenty Living Polymaths (*The Economist*) **Stephen Hough** has been commissioned to compose a new work for the 2021 Cliburn Competition, to be performed by all 30 competitors. *This marks the second time that the composer of the commissioned work will also serve on the jury.* Details on the piece will be released in early 2021, and competitors will receive it no later than March 25, 2021.

### ARTISTIC COLLABORATORS

For biographies, please click [HERE](#).

To download hi-res images, click [HERE](#).

- Marin Alsop, conductor – Final Round (jury chairman)
- Nicholas McGegan, conductor – Semifinal Round
- Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra – Semifinal and Final Rounds

*Note: Ms. Alsop will be a non-voting jury chairman.*

### VENUES

To download hi-res images, click [HERE](#).

- Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU – Preliminary and Quarterfinal Rounds
- Bass Performance Hall – Semifinal and Final Rounds

### IMPORTANT DATES

January 2020	Prizes and Career Management Packages Announced
October 15, 2020	Applications Due
December 15, 2020	Screening Auditions Schedule Announced

March 10, 2021 Competitors Announced  
May 27–June 12, 2021 Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition

### **APPLICATIONS**

The Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition is open to pianists of all nationalities. First-prize winners of previous Van Cliburn International Piano Competitions are not eligible to compete. Applicants must have been born after June 12, 1990, and on or before May 27, 2003.

Videos will be submitted through the online application process. Submissions must be between 35 and 40 minutes in length. The repertoire will consist of works chosen by the pianist and may be selected from works offered for the Competition recital rounds. Only complete works will be accepted. The video must be filmed with the pianist's face and hands in the frame at all times.

### **ROUNDS & REPERTOIRE**

#### **Screening Auditions** (January/February 2021)

- Approximately 135 applicants perform 40-minute recitals in eight cities across Asia, Europe, and North America

#### **Preliminary Round** (May 27–29, 2021) Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

- 30 competitors perform a 40-minute recital, to include commissioned work of 4-6 minutes by **Stephen Hough**

#### **Quarterfinal Round** (May 30–31, 2021) Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

- 18 competitors perform a 40-minute recital

#### **Semifinal Round** (June 2–6, 2021) Bass Performance Hall

- 12 competitors in two phases:
  1. 60-minute recital
  2. Mozart concerto to be selected from a list with **FWSO** and conductor **Nicholas McGegan**

#### **Final Round** (June 8–12, 2021) Bass Performance Hall

- 6 competitors perform two concertos, to be selected from two separate lists, with the **FWSO** and conductor **Marin Alsop**.

Click [HERE](#) for complete repertoire information.