

Michigan Solo Competition Report

Fall 2016 MASTA Board Meeting

Saturday, September 24, 11:00
Plymouth Canton Educational Park High School

Prepared by Melissa Gerber Knecht

REVISIONS

Sequence of events and location:

A revision to the MASTA Solo Competition as follows: the 2016-2017 competition will have two rounds.

The **Preliminary Round** will be completed online via video audition submission. The deadline for submission is 11:50 on November 1, 2016. Up to five Finalists will be chosen in the online preliminary round by a distinguished panel of judges.

In the live **Final Round**, the Finalists will perform on Sunday, November 20 in the Conrad Recital Hall at Hillsdale College. The Finalists will compete for the Gold and Silver Prizes and the Audience Favorite Award. (In addition to a panel of judges, the audience will be given the opportunity to vote for the Audience Favorite Award.)

For specific 2016-2017 Solo Competition Guidelines, go the MASTA website.

Discussion:

For simplicity and to focus on developing the quality and number of participants, the decision was made to have the final round at Hillsdale College. As Professor of Violin and Viola at Hillsdale, I will have more control over the venue in terms of piano quality, accompanist and developing a supportive audience for the final round.

Repertoire

Preliminary round: Two works or movements of works from the standard literature is required: one from the Baroque or Classical period, and one from a contrasting period.

Final round: Any piece of the contestant's choice.

Discussion:

After an email perusal of other ASTA related competitions and discussions with a variety of professionals including David Holland, I decided to simplify the repertoire to more easily attract participants.

RECRUITMENT

- (1) Posters and flyers were placed at PhoenixPhest, Interlochen, CenterStage and SHAR Music.
- (2) Future plans include distributing flyers at MYSO and other youth orchestras?
- (3) Future plans for personal phone calls and emails to string teachers (e.g., Stephen Shippo, Danielle Belen, Caroline Coade, Yitzhak Schotten, Dmitri Berlinsky, Daniel Thomas, Tony Elliott. . . .)

Discussion:

Goal is to broaden and develop the participants. In the past, low numbers have been the norm. Other ideas?

OPERATING BUDGET/DONATIONS

Donors:

SHAR \$500

Baroque Violins \$500

D'Arrio Strings \$500

Discussion:

For many years this competition has operated in the red, covered by the Elizabeth Green Foundation. My future plans are to increase participation, which in turn will increase revenue. A secondary option is to find support from the Hillsdale Community Foundation. A preliminary discussion was encouraging that this organization would be interested in donating the prize money for the Audience Favorite Award. However, the deadline for their grants was in early Spring. I hope to write up the proposal for the next deadline. If successful, the money would be late for this year's competition.