

RENÉE B. FISHER COMPETITION

COMPOSER AWARDS APPLICATION

Established 1987

- The purpose of the Renée B. Fisher Piano Competition is to nurture growth and development of young pianists, to reward them for outstanding achievement in the classical repertoire, and to encourage them to acquaint themselves with, and to perform, contemporary music. The piano competition consists of two separate divisions: Elementary/Middle School Division (Grade 8 & below) and High School Division (Grades 9-12).
- The Renée B. Fisher Foundation and Neighborhood Music School have announced a call for scores for new piano works to be premiered in each division at its 2026 and 2027 piano competitions. The submissions must be written for this competition and must not have been published, recorded or publicly premiered prior to the competition. The pieces for the elementary & middle school division should have a duration of 3-4 minutes and pieces for the high school division should have a duration of 4-5 minutes.
- Composers are welcome to apply for the commission in one or both divisions. **A separate application and composition must be submitted for each division entered.** Any applicant may be a winner in only one division; past winners are ineligible to enter again. The Composer Awards are administered bi-annually. We anticipate that four composers will be chosen; two for the competitions in 2026 and two for the competitions in 2027. Each chosen composer must commit to attend the piano competition Winners Concert in early May 2026 or 2027 in New Haven, Connecticut on which occasion payment of the \$1500 award will be made; travel and lodging expenses up to \$1000 for domestic travel and \$1500 for international travel will be reimbursed. The composers are invited to attend the piano competition auditions also in New Haven in mid to late April 2026 or 2027 to serve as the judge of the performance of the composers' own work; attendance at the auditions is optional and no remuneration or reimbursement for travel or lodging is available.

A complete application will include the following items:

- ☐ Application form, completed, signed and dated.
- ☐ One score with six anonymous copies of the work for solo piano reflecting the appropriate age and experience level (either Elementary/Middle School or High School) for the division entered; the title page of the score should include the title of the composition, the name of the composer, the division entered, and the year entered. The title page bearing the composer's name should **not** be attached to the six copies which will be distributed to the judging committees. The name of the composer should **not** appear on any other pages of the composition. The score should **not** measure larger than 10 x 13 inches.
- ☐ A working private link to a recording (for ex. SoundCloud) of the same work. The recording should be marked with the title of the composition, but **not** with the name of the composer. Make sure links to the audio recording will work for any member of the public.
- ☐ A one-page biographical sketch.

Entry to each division must contain all listed items. For return of materials, applicant should enclose a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) with correct postage affixed.

Applications must be postmarked no later than January 10, 2026.

DIRECT APPLICATIONS AND QUESTIONS TO:

E-mail: reneeBFisher@nmsnewhaven.org

Phone: (203) 624-5189

Regular Mail: **Renée B. Fisher Competition**

Neighborhood Music School

100 Audubon Street

New Haven, CT 06510

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COMPOSER AWARDS APPLICATION

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Composition Title:

DIVISION ENTERED (circle only one): Elementary/Middle School High School

(A separate application and composition must be submitted for each division entered.)

- Applicant agrees to comply with the guidelines for the Composers Awards, and will make no claims of any kind against Neighborhood Music School or the Renée B. Fisher Foundation, their officers, their employees, or the judges.
- Applicant certifies that he/she has not been selected as a commissioned composer for the Renée B. Fisher Composer Awards in the past.
- Applicant agrees to abide by the discretion of the judges to change the division in which the submission is being considered if the judges deem such a change to be more age and experience appropriate for the piano competitors.
- Applicant grants the right for copies of the composition to be made and distributed to the judging committee; copies distributed to the judges shall not include any pages containing the name of the composer.
- Applicant agrees that the application materials will be returned only if a SASE with correct postage affixed is enclosed with the submission.
- Applicant certifies that the submitted piece was written for the competition and must not have been published, recorded or publicly premiered prior to the competition.

Signature: _____ Date: _____