

Competitor Eligibility

Participants must not be, or ever have been, a full-time paid professional in either a performing position or college teaching position, as of May 1, 2020. There is no age limitation, and the competition is open to anyone world-wide.

Competition Process

Competition Registration

In order to register for the competition, you must fill out the registration form [here](#). After completing the form, you must also pay the appropriate amount through PayPal to us at starsandshipes@gmail.com. Once this is complete, you will receive an e-mail confirming your eligibility for the competition.

Competition Fees

There are two sets of fees for entry into this competition, early and regular.

The Early Fees are available until **June 5, 2020**:

- \$30 - Competition Registration and written feedback from judging panel
- \$60 - Competition Registration, written feedback, and one live video session with panel

After **June 5, 2020**, The Regular Fees apply:

- \$50 - Competition Registration and written feedback from judging panel
- \$80 - Competition Registration, written feedback, and one live video session with panel

Preliminary Round

All rounds of this competition will be treated like “live” rounds with the screen removed. To emulate this, competitors will submit unedited video recordings of the entire round of excerpts. All pieces must be played in one take, with no cuts or editing allowed. (for example, each excerpt will transition fluidly into the next one; feel free to take a few moments between pieces).

Competitors will submit links to video recordings of the preliminary round materials to starsandshipes@gmail.com by the due date: **July 6, 2020**.

After recording your video, upload the file to YouTube as an *unlisted* file, and send the link to us to finalize your entry. Unlisted videos are only viewable by the owner of the video, and anyone who has access to the link. These can easily be changed to *private*, or removed after the competition. (We will not share links with anyone outside of the judging panel without your written consent)

Please contact us at starsandshipes@gmail.com with any questions or concerns about materials submission.

Do not edit or splice anything within a specific file. Any evidence of editing may result in disqualification from subsequent rounds of competition.

Semi-finalists will be announced **Monday, July 13.**

In the spirit of maintaining a true military-band audition experience, there will not be a predetermined number of individuals that advance to the following round. However, if there are fewer than 10 applications for a specific competition, everyone who submits a complete preliminary recording will advance to the following round.

Semi-Final Round

The repertoire for the Semi-Final and Final rounds is the same, and can be found on the website.

Cuts for the semi-final round will be announced at 12:00 AM (Central Time) on **Wednesday, July 15.** All Semi-finalists will then have until 11:59 PM on that same day to submit links to an unedited video of themselves performing all of the excerpt cuts in the prescribed order.

Post this video as an *unlisted* video on YouTube, and send the link to us at starsandshipes@gmail.com to complete your entry.

From these semi-finalists, the judges will choose a number of finalists that is not predetermined.

Final Round

Finalists will be announced **Monday, July 20.**

The final round will function the same way as the Semi-Final Round, but with different cuts.

Cuts for the final round will be announced at 12:00 AM on **Wednesday, July 22.** All Finalists will have until 11:59 PM on that same day to submit links to an unedited video of themselves performing all of the excerpt cuts in the prescribed order.

Post this video as an *unlisted* video on YouTube, and send the link to us at starsandshipes@gmail.com to complete your entry.

Additional Rounds

Additional rounds may be asked to further narrow down a highly qualified pool of competitors at the judges' discretion.

Competition Prize

The prizes for this competition are guaranteed to be at least \$150 for the First Place Winner and \$100 for the Second Place Winner. These prizes may increase leading up to the competition based on a number of factors. The prize money will be awarded digitally through PayPal, or an alternative method of payment as discussed with the winners.

Panel Feedback

By entering this competition, all competitors are entitled to written feedback from the panel of judges for each round of competition they participate in.

Those competitors who pay for the video feedback will be able to have one “live” meeting with the panel through online conferencing software like Zoom or Skype, in addition to the written feedback after the competition has concluded.

Disclaimers

Participation in this competition is contingent on the competitors’ access to the required technology needed to record audio and video, send and receive e-mail, and access to the internet during the course of the competition.

There are real-time deadlines in the semi-final and final rounds that must be adhered to as part of this competition. If these deadlines are not met by a competitor (materials are not submitted by the deadline) then they may be disqualified from the competition.

It is possible that websites like YouTube might go offline for maintenance or due to other problems that are unforeseeable during the course of this competition. If that occurs, please be ready to share a standard definition video (480p) of your submission with **starsandshipes@gmail.com** through Google drive. We will communicate with competitors when we notice any widespread issues like this.

There will be no refunds of competition fees issued for any reason.

All competition decisions made by the panel of judges are final.

Any and all questions should be directed to **starsandshipes@gmail.com**

**Written and reviewed May 7, 2020.