



a step to greatness

THE STULBERG INTERNATIONAL STRING COMPETITION

*An Informational Guide for Teachers and
Students - 2024-2025 Edition*



our vision

Our vision is to deepen community engagement while offering a premier string competition.

our mission

The mission of the Stulberg Competition is to promote excellence in string instrument performance by gifted artists under the age of twenty years old.

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stulberg international string competition

The Stulberg International String Competition promotes excellence in string instrument performance by gifted musicians under the age of 20 years old. The Stulberg has an impressive track record of counting some of the world's most gifted string artists among its participants and prizewinners.

Founded in 1975 to honor Dr. Julius Stulberg, the Stulberg Competition attracts the finest conservatory string players in the world. Boasting over 2,500 young string participants in its 50-year history, many of the competition's former winners have gone on to illustrious classical music careers.

Dr. Julius Stulberg was the former Professor of Violin at Western Michigan University and Conductor of the University Symphony Orchestra from 1945-1974. In addition to his duties at WMU, Julius Stulberg was Conductor of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra from 1941-1974. Today, the Stulberg International String Competition maintains a close relationship with both organizations, who present the Stulberg medalists every year.

The competition attracts applicants from around the world. Utilizing a blind screening process, 12 semifinalists are invited to compete for the gold, silver, bronze medals and the Bach Prize. Along with a monetary award there are performance opportunities, not only in the Kalamazoo, Michigan area, but also regionally and nationally.



Stulberg Season 2024-2025

OCTOBER 6, 2024 | 3:00 P.M.

Miller Auditorium, Western Michigan University,
Kalamazoo, MI
2024 Silver Medalist, Joshua Kováč with the WMU
Symphony Orchestra

NOVEMBER 2, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

Saturday with the Stulberg – ONLINE
2021 Bronze Medalist, Bobby Boogyeom Park, violin

NOVEMBER 22, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

Miller Auditorium, Kalamazoo, MI
2024 Gold Medalist, Mio Imai with the Kalamazoo
Symphony Orchestra

NOVEMBER 23, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

Dalton Center Recital Hall, Western Michigan University,
Kalamazoo, MI
1986 Silver Medalist/2025 Stulberg Judge, Rachel Barton
Pine, violin

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

Saturday with the Stulberg – ONLINE
2022 Silver Medalist, Jacques Forestier, violin

FEBRUARY 9, 2025 | 4:00 P.M.

Chenery Auditorium, Kalamazoo, MI
2024 Bronze Medalist, Pearl de la Motte with the
Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra

MARCH 9, 2025 | 3:00 P.M.

Kraushaar Auditorium, Goucher College, Baltimore, MD
2023 Gold Medalist, Amelia Zitoun with the Baltimore
Chamber Orchestra

APRIL 5, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

Saturday with the Stulberg – ONLINE
2023 Gold Medalist, Amelia Zitoun, cello

APRIL 19, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.

The Desenberg, Kalamazoo, MI
Stulberg 50th Anniversary Gala

MAY 16, 2025 | 3:00 P.M.

Dalton Center, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
50th Annual Stulberg Competition Masterclasses

MAY 17, 2025

Dalton Center, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
50th Annual Stulberg Competition Semifinals/Finals
Performances

JUNE 7, 2025 | 9:00 A.M.

Location TBA
Cello Masterclass with 2022 Stulberg Judge, Amit Peled



2025 JUDGES

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Stulberg International String Competition, this year's slate of judges includes former Stulberg medalist Rachel Barton Pine, Grammy award-winning composer and conductor Lucas Richman, and world-renowned cello soloist Li-Wei Qin. In addition, one semifinalist will receive the opportunity to perform a newly commissioned work by Lucas Richman alongside several mentorship sessions with Rachel Barton Pine.



*2025 stulberg
competition schedule*

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025
**Master Classes with 2025
Stulberg Judges**
Dalton Center, Western
Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sponsor Appreciation Event
Kalamazoo Country Club
Kalamazoo, MI
Li-Wei Qin, cello
By invitation only

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025
**Semifinals Performances
(free admission)**
Dalton Center, Western
Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI
Morning Block: 9:00 a.m.
Afternoon Block: 1:00 p.m.

**Finals Performances
(ticketed)**
Dalton Center, Western
Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI
7:30 p.m.



“Striking and charismatic... she demonstrated a bravura technique and soulful musicianship.” – The New York Times

The acclaimed American concert violinist Rachel Barton Pine thrills international audiences with her dazzling technique, lustrous tone, and emotional honesty. With an infectious joy in music-making and a passion for connecting historical research to performance, Pine transforms audiences’ experiences of classical music. She is a leading interpreter of the great classical masterworks as well as groundbreaking contemporary music.

Pine performs with the world’s foremost orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg, and the Chicago, Vienna, and Detroit symphony orchestras. She has worked with renowned conductors that include Teddy Abrams, Marin Alsop, Daniel Barenboim, Semyon Bychkov, Neeme Järvi, Christoph Eschenbach, Erich Leinsdorf, Nicholas McGegan, Zubin Mehta, Tito Muñoz, and John Nelson. As a chamber musician, Pine has performed with Jonathan Gilad, Clive Greensmith, Paul Neubauer, Jory Vinikour, William Warfield, Orion Weiss, and the Pacifica and Parker quartets.

Highlights of Pine’s 2024–25 season include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra premiere of José White’s Violin Concerto in F-sharp Minor; a tour of Israel with the Tel Aviv Soloists Ensemble; Lalo’s *Symphonie Espagnole* with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra; the world premiere of Haralabos [Harry] Stafylakis’ Violin Concerto with the Winnipeg Symphony; Billy Childs’ Violin Concerto No. 2 with the Rhode Island Philharmonic; and the French premiere of Earl Maneein’s violin concerto *Dependent Arising* with the Orchestre National de Bretagne. Over the season, Pine will also perform concertos by Brahms and Sibelius, in addition to other notable works by Wynton Marsalis, Jessie Montgomery, and Mark O’Connor, among other living composers.

She performs on the “ex-Bazzini, ex-Soldat” Joseph Guarnerius “del Gesù” (Cremona 1742), on lifetime loan from her anonymous patron.



**RACHEL
BARTON PINE,**
violin

“A superbly stylish, raptly intuitive performer.” – Gramophone Magazine

An exclusive Universal Music China Artist, Li-Wei Qin has appeared all over the world as a soloist and as a chamber musician. After achieving great success at the 11th Tchaikovsky International Competition where he was awarded the Silver Medal, Li-Wei has since won the First Prize in the prestigious 2001 Naumburg Competition in New York. “A superbly stylish, raptly intuitive performer” Gramophone Magazine, January 2015) was the description of the cellist’s Elgar and Walton concerti recording with the London Philharmonic.

Highlights in the 2017/18 season includes debuts with the London Symphony, Russian Philharmonic, Czech Chamber and Brussels Chamber Orchestras. Return visits to the China Philharmonic, Guangzhou Symphony and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras.

Two times soloist at the BBC Proms in London’s Royal Albert Hall, Li-Wei has enjoyed successful artistic collaborations with many of the world’s great orchestras including all the BBC symphony orchestras, the Los Angeles philharmonic, London Philharmonic, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, the NDR-Sinfonieorchester Hamburg, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Basel Symphony, the Prague symphony, the Osaka Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, China Philharmonic, the Sydney Symphony and Melbourne Symphony among many others. Leading conductors with whom he has worked include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sir Andrew Davis, Marek Janowski, Jaap Van Zweden, Jiri Belohlavek, Jan Pascal Totelier, Hans Graf, Yu Long, the late Macheo Viotti and the late Lord Menuhin. Li-Wei has also appeared with chamber orchestras such as the Kremerata Baltika, Sinfonia Vasovia, the Munich, the Zurich, the Australian Chamber Orchestras.

In recital and chamber music, Li-Wei is a regular guest at the Wigmore Hall and for the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, New York. He has appeared at the BBC Proms, the Rheingau, the City of London, the Schlewigs-Holstein and the Mecklenburg Festivals. Li-Wei has collaborated with musicians such as Daniel Hope, Nabuko Imai, Misha Maisky, David Finckel, Wu Han, Vladimir Mendelssohn and Peter Frankel, among many others.

Li-Wei’s recordings on Universal Music/Decca include the complete Beethoven Sonatas, Works of Rachmaninov with pianist Albert Tiu, Dvořák Concerto with Singapore Symphony Orchestra and conductor Lan Shui and Elgar/Walton Concerti with the London Philharmonic. Most recently, courtesy of Universal Music, Li-Wei’s 2013 live concert with the Shanghai Symphony and Maestro Yu Long has been released on Sony Classical.

Born in Shanghai Li-Wei moved to Australia at the age of 13, before accepting scholarships to study with Ralph Kirshbaum at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester and with David Takeno at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. He was invited to join the BBC ‘New Generations’ scheme in 2001 and in 2002, Li-Wei received the Young Australian of the Year Award. Other major invitations included appearances at both the 2008 Beijing Olympics (New Zealand Symphony), 2012 London Olympics and the Davos World Economics Forum (Basel Symphony Orchestra).

Prior to teaching at the YST Conservatory, Li-Wei was a professor of cello at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. He is also a guest professor at Shanghai and Central Conservatory of Music in China. Li-Wei plays a 1780 Joseph Guaragnini cello, generously loaned by Dr and Mrs Wilson Goh.

2024 Competition Judge, Li-Wei Qin has been proudly sponsored by Zhang Financial.

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LI-WEI QIN,
cello

“Original, thought provoking and intellectually intriguing... moving from dense, complicated layering to open, translucent passages while the oboe moves forward is certainly the work of a confident composer.” – Knoxville News Sentinel

GRAMMY award-winning conductor Lucas Richman has served as Music Director for the Bangor Symphony Orchestra since 2010 and held the position as Music Director for the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra from 2003-2015. Over the course of nearly four decades on the podium, he has garnered an international reputation for his graceful musical leadership in a diverse field of media. In concert halls, orchestral pits and recording studios around the world, Richman earns rave reviews for his artful collaborations with artists in both the classical and commercial music arenas.

He has appeared as guest conductor with numerous orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Pops, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Canada’s National Arts Centre Orchestra and Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra, the Oslo Philharmonic, the SWR Radio Orchestra of Kaiserslautern, the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra, the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional and the Zagreb Philharmonic.

In recent years, he has led performances with notable soloists such as Mstislav Rostropovich, Garrick Ohlsson, Lang Lang, Midori, Gil Shaham, Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Frank Peter Zimmerman, Mark O’Connor, Andre Watts, Frederica von Stade and Radu Lupu. Mr. Richman has also conducted for a panoply of commercial artists that includes James Taylor, Michael Jackson, Pat Boone, Michael Feinstein, Gloria Estefan, Megan Hilty, Matthew Morrison, George Benson, Robert Goulet, Anne Murray, the Smothers Brothers, Martin Short, Tony Randall, Victor Borge and Brian Wilson. Mr. Richman’s numerous collaborations with film composers as their conductor has yielded recorded scores for such films as the Academy Award-nominated *The Village* (with violinist, Hilary Hahn) and *As Good As It Gets*; in 2010, John Williams invited him to lead the three-month national summer tour of *Star Wars in Concert*.

Also an accomplished composer, Mr. Richman has had his music performed by over two hundred orchestras across the United States including the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops and the symphonies of Detroit, Atlanta, New Jersey and Houston. He has fulfilled commissions for numerous organizations including the Pittsburgh Symphony, Knoxville Symphony, Bangor Symphony, Johnstown Symphony, the Debussy Trio, the Seattle Chamber Music Society and the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh. His “Symphony: This Will Be Our Reply” was premiered to critical acclaim by a

consortium of orchestras in 2019, including the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra (TN), the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra (MN) and the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony (CA). March, 2022 saw the premiere of *The Warming Sea* for the Maine Science Festival/Bangor Symphony Orchestra and *Concerto for Violin and Cello: Un Pasto con Luciana e Mario* was premiered by the Atlanta Musicians Orchestra in June, 2022. Upcoming commissions include *Concerto for Violin: Paths to Dignity* written for performances with violinist Mitchell Newman in 2023 and 2024.

September, 2015, brought the vaunted Albany Records release of a new CD, *IN TRUTH* Lucas Richman, which features the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performing his *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra: In Truth* (Jeffrey Biegel, piano), in addition to his *Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra: The Clearing* (Cynthia Koledo DeAlmeida, oboe) and *Three Pieces for Cello and Orchestra* (Inbal Segev, cello). In November, 2009, as the result of an NEA commission, the San Diego Symphony Orchestra premiered his *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant*, a setting of poetry by Children’s Poet Laureate, Jack Prelutsky, which Jahja Ling and the SDSO recorded for release in December, 2011.



**LUCAS
RICHMAN,
composer/violin**



stulberg past medalists

YEAR	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
2024	Mio Imai, violin	Joshua Kováč, cello	Pearl de la Motte, viola
2023	Amelia Zitoun, cello	Esme Arias Kim, violin	Starla Breshears, cello
2022	Daniel Bae, violin	Jacques Forestier, violin	Angeline Kiang, cello
2021	Keila Wakao, violin	Sean Yu, cello	Bobby Boogyeom Park, violin
2020	Dongyoung Jake Shim, violin	Yeyeong Jin, violin	Masha Lakisova, violin
2019	Daniel Rafimayeri, violin	Nathan Le, cello	Sory Park, violin
2018	Charlotte Marckx, violin	La Li, cello	Maya Anjali Buchanan, violin
2017	William McGregor, double bass	Qing Yu Chen, violin	Karisa Chiu, violin
2016	Daniel Hass, cello	Zeyu Victor Li, violin	Austin Haley Berman, violin
2015	Yaegy Park, violin	Oliver Herbert, cello	Hae Sue Lee, viola
2014	Zlatomir Fung, cello	Emma Meinrenken, violin	Charles Seo, cello
2013	Youjin Lee, violin	Ariel Horowitz, violin	Laura Park, violin
2012	Matthew Lipman, viola	Brannon Cho, cello	Vincent Meklis, violin
2011	Austin Huntington, cello	Mayumi Kanagawa, violin	Christine Lim, violin
2010	Richard Narroway, cello	Benedicte Lauziere, violin	Allan Steele, cello
2009	Nicholas Schwartz, double bass	Ran Cheng, violin	Tony Rymmer, cello
2008	Matthew Allen, cello	Ji-Won Song, violin	Rebecca Anderson, violin
2007	Benjamin Beilman, violin	Christel Lee, violin	Yina Tong, cello
2006	Susan Jang, violin	Shannon Lee, violin	Hiro Matsuo, cello
2005	Jinjo Cho, violin	Nikolaus Leopold, cello	Bryan Lee, violin
2004	Amaury Coeytaux, violin	Anna Burden, cello	Miran Kim, violin
2003	Tien-Hsin Wu, violin	Robin Scott, violin	D. Joshua Roman, cello
2002	Emilie-Anne Gendron, violin	Kathryn Eberle, violin	Rachel Harding, violin
2001	Yuri Namkung, violin	Nicole Kim Hanson, cello	Karina Canellakis, violin
2000	Deanna Talens, cello	Dylana Leung, violin	Rachel Kim, violin
1999	Austin Hartman, violin	Christine Kim, cello	Misha Ovrutsky, violin
1998	Nicholas Crosa, violin	Caroline Campbell, violin	Zachary DePue, violin
1997	Madeline Adkins, violin	Nicholas Crosa, violin	Duke Lee, viola
1996	Corinne Chapelle, violin	Sharon Roffman, violin	Joel Noyes, cello
1995	Catherine Basrak, viola	Soovin Kim, violin	Ani Aznavoorian, cello
1994	Esther Noh, violin	Ani Aznavoorian, cello	Soovin Kim, violin
1993	Merrie Arnold, violin	Catherine Basrak, violin	Mona Knock, violin
1992	Jennifer Koh, violin	Wei-Pin Kuo, violin	Marjorie Bagley, violin
1991	Kirsten Johnson, viola	Mona Knock, violin	Brent Samuel, cello
1990	Wendy Warner, cello	Jennifer Hyun-Jou Koh, violin	Rachel Barton, violin
1989	Elizabeth (Lisa) Kim, violin	Lisa Kim, violin	Wendy Warner, cello
1988	Sang Mee Lee, violin	Karen Lee, violin	Joan Kwon, violin
1987	Sheryl Staples, violin	Jennifer Clare Wion, violin	Elizabeth Ann Larson, violin
1986	Elisa Barston, violin	Rachel Barton, violin	Sheryl Staples, violin
1985	Ivan Chan, violin	David Perry, violin	Desiree Ruhstart, violin
1984	Stephanie Arado, violin	Lynne Richburg, viola	Eunice Roh, violin
1983	Sarah Plum, violin	Greg Sauer, cello	Eunice Roh, violin
1982	Eunice Lee, violin	Adela Pena, violin	David Ying, cello
1981	Joshua Bell, violin	Eric Kim, cello	Se Yon Sandy Kim, violin
1980	Hae-Young Ham, violin	Se Yon Sandy Kim, violin	Joshua Bell, violin
1979	Anthony Ross, cello	Hal Grossman, violin	Susan Synnstedt, violin
1978	Benny Kim, violin	Susan Synnstedt, violin	Scott Woolweaver, viola
1977	Kari-Lise Ravnan, cello	Cheryl House, cello	Hee-Soo Kim, violin
1976	Lucia Lin, violin	Cheryl House, cello	Margaret Lang, viola



stulberg past judges

2024	Annalee Patipatanakoon, violin	Roman Borys, cello (All members of the Gryphon Trio)	Jamie Parker, piano
2023	Benjamin Beilman, violin	Anthony Elliott, cello	Jessie Montgomery, composition/violin
2022	Atar Arad, viola	Amit Peled, cello	Simin Ganatra, violin
2021	Sara Sant'Ambrogio, cello	Mitchell Newman, violin	Cynthia Phelps, viola
2020	Clive Greensmith, cello	Yura Lee, violin/viola	Cho-Liang Lin, violin
2019	Paul Coletti, viola	Emilio Colón, cello	Jennifer Frautschi, violin
2018	Aaron Dworkin, arts leader	Anthony Ross, cello	Scott St. John, viola
2017	David Kim, violin	Yizhak Schotten, viola	Amit Peled, cello
2016	Glenn Dicterow, violin	Steven Tenenbom, viola	Peter Wiley, cello
2015	Heidi Castleman, viola	Sarah Chang, violin	Eric Kim, cello
2014	Karen Dreyfus, viola	John Sant'Ambrogio, cello	Donald Weilerstein, violin
2013	Richard Aaron, cello	Victoria Chiang, viola	Soovin Kim, violin
2012	Matt Haimovitz, cello	Rachel Barton Pine, violin	Roland Vamos, violin/viola
2011	Raymond Harvey, conductor	Paul Katz, cello	Joseph Silverstein, violin
2010	Ronald Copes, violin Samuel Rhodes, viola	Nick Eanet, violin (all members of the Juilliard String Quartet)	Joel Krosnick, cello
2009	Miriam Fried, violin	Ronald Leonard, cello	Richard Young, viola
2008	Bayla Keyes, Violin	Tom Knific, double bass	Rhonda Rider, cello
2007	Timothy Eddy, cello Steven Tenenbom, viola	Daniel Phillips, violin (all members of the Orion String Quartet)	Todd Phillips, violin
2006	David Cerone, violin	Linda Cerone, violin	Steven Doane, cello
2005	Anner Bylsma, cello	Ani Kavafian, violin	Ida Kavafian, violin/viola
2004	James O. Buswell IV, violin	Michael Kugel, viola	Marc Johnson, cello
2003	Ivan Chan, violin Keith Robinson, cello	Chauncy Patterson, viola (all members of the Miami String Quartet)	Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
2002	Benedict Goodfriend, violin	Hans Jorgen, cello	Almita Vamos, violin
2001	Emilio Colon, cello	Gerald Fischbach, violin	Marcus Thompson, viola
2000	Benny Kim, violin	Wendy Warner, cello	Max Wilcox, record producer
1999	Owen Carman, cello	Igor Fedotov, viola	Hal Grossman, violin
1998	Karen Buranskas, cello	Myron Kartman, violin	Max Wilcox, record producer
1997	Heidi Castleman, viola	Anthony Elliott, cello	Cyrus Forough, violin
1996	Heidi Castleman, viola	Ross Harbaugh, cello	David Updegraff, violin
1995	Joshua Bell, violin	Lucia Lin, violin	Anthony Ross, cello
1994	Robert Culver, viola	Bernard Greenhouse, cello	Yoshimi Takeda, conductor
1993	Bernard Greenhouse, cello	Stephen Shipps, violin	Marcus Thompson, viola
1992	Nathaniel Rosen, cello	Sergiu Schwartz, violin	Karen Tuttle, viola
1991	Csaba Erdelyi, viola	Winifred Mayes, cello	Edward Shmider, violin
1990	Catherine Comet, conductor	Csaba Erdelyi, viola	Yehudi Menuhin, violin
1989	Paul Doktor, viola	Alan Harris, cello	Marilyn McDonald, violin
1988	Alan Harris, cello	William Preucil, viola	Edward Shmider, violin
1987	Yizhak Schotten, viola	Neil Stulberg, conductor	David Vanderkooi, cello
1986	Norman Paulu, violin	William Preucil, viola	David Vanderkooi, cello
1985	Josef Gingold, violin	Richard Kapuscinski, cello	Max Wilcox, record producer
1984	David Cerone, violin	David Holland, viola	Richard Kapuscinski, cello
1983	Raya Garbousova, cello	David Holland, viola	Leonard Sorkin, violin
1982	Richard Blum, viola	David Cerone, violin	Michael Press Haber, cello
1981	Richard Blum, viola	Michael P. Haber, cello	Jacob Krachmalnick, violin
1980	Alan Harris, cello	Jacob Krachmalnick, violin	Abraham Skernick, viola
1979	James O. Buswell IV, violin	Alan Harris, cello	Abraham Skernick, viola
1978	Urico Rossi, violin	Andor Toth, Jr., cello	Francis Tursi, violin
1977	James O. Buswell IV, violin	Fritz Magg, cello	Yosef Yankelev, violin
1976	Orlando Cole, cello	Nathan Gordon, viola	Paul Rolland





ELIGIBILITY

The Stulberg Competition is open to students of violin, viola, cello, or double bass.

Applicants must be age 19 or under as of January 1, 2025. Proof of date of birth will be required if selected as a semifinalist.

Current students of the 2025 Judges are not eligible to apply. Judges are Rachel Barton Pine (violin), Lucas Richman (composition/violin), Li-Wei Qin (cello).

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

- Applications are reviewed by a panel of judges who will select **twelve semifinalists and four alternates**.
- Applicants will be notified of results no later than **March 15, 2025**.
- **Twelve semifinalists** will compete in Kalamazoo, Michigan on **Saturday, May 17, 2025**, before a panel of judges and an audience.
- **Semifinalists** will perform a movement(s) from a standard concerto.
- **Six finalists** will be chosen at the competition, and will perform an additional movement(s) at a Finals Concert to determine the three medalists.
- **NEW for 2025:** For this year's competition, there will be no solo Bach performance/prize. Instead, the **twelve selected semifinalists** will prepare the first movement of a newly commissioned work during the live semifinals round. More details will be provided directly to the selected semifinalists.



awards & prizes

Semifinalists

The top twelve competitors are invited to perform before an audience and our panel of world-renowned judges. The judges are encouraged to give each semifinalist written and oral comments after the competition.

Finalists

The top six finalist competitors will be announced following the semifinals performances.

Gold Medal Prize*

The winner of the Gold Medal prize (sponsored by Kenneth Warren & Son) is awarded with a cash prize of \$10,000 and a return performance with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra (Julian Kuerti, Music Director) as well as a concerto performance with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra (Robert Moody, Music Director) in the subsequent season.

The Gold Medal is graciously sponsored by Kenneth Warren & Son, Ltd.

Silver Medal Prize*

The Silver Medal prize is awarded with a cash prize of \$7,000. The Silver Medalist award includes a return performance with the Western Michigan University Symphony Orchestra (Bruce Uchimura, Music Director). Julius Stulberg was Professor of Violin at WMU and Conductor of the University Symphony Orchestra from 1945 to 1974.

Pinehurst Bronze Medal Prize*

The Pinehurst Bronze Medal is awarded with a cash prize of \$5,000. The Bronze Medalist is also awarded a return performance with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra (Andrew Koehler, Music Director). Founded in 1939, the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra is one of the oldest and finest youth symphony orchestras in the United States and has been accorded many national and international honors. It was directed by Julius Stulberg from 1941 through 1974.

The Bronze Medal is graciously sponsored by the Pinehurst Fund

**The Gold, Silver and Bronze prizes money will be received in two payments; first half will be received immediately after the competition and the other half after the performance award concert.*

Semifinalist Stipends

The nine semifinalists not chosen for medals will each receive a \$1,000 stipend.





NEW FOR THE 2025 COMPETITION:

Julius and Esther Stulberg Memorial Prize

In honor of the 50th Anniversary, composer and 2025 Competition Judge, Lucas Richman, was commissioned to create a concerto that will be premiered by one semifinalist selected by the panel of judges. In addition, the selected contestant will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and mentorship with 2025 Stulberg Judge, Rachel Barton Pine, over the course of 3-4 sessions conducted over Zoom.

Performance and Mentorship Details: The original composition by Lucas Richman, of approximately 25 minutes in length, titled "Concerto for (selected contestant's instrument)", will be delivered to the selected contestant in August 2025. Following the delivery of the piece, the contestant will schedule 3-4 virtual mentorship sessions with Rachel Barton Pine. The mentorship sessions will focus on the following subjects:

- **Session 1: Score Study of the Commissioned Concerto**
This session will consist of analysis of the piece, developing the performer's understanding of the piece, and creating a plan for preparing the piece.
- **Session 2: Preparing to Collaborate with a Composer**
This session will touch on navigating the relationships between a soloist, composer, and various leaders at an orchestra, including conductors and administrators.
- **Session 3: Lesson on the Commissioned Work***
*For violin or viola soloist only
- **Session 4: Collaborative Session**
Working session with Lucas Richman, Rachel Barton Pine, and the selected performer.

The premiere performance will be held with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra in a concert during the 2025- 2026 season.





guidelines for submitting your application

Applications for the 2025 Competition open on October 15, 2024

Deadline for submitting applications is **February 1, 2025 (11:59 p.m. EST)**

Application Guidelines

Application form, audition video and application fee must be submitted online at <https://app.getacceptd.com/stulberg>
Paper applications or CDs will not be accepted.

Application fee is \$150 USD payable via credit card only.

Guidelines for Uploading Audition Video

- Your video submission must have been recorded within 12 months of the application deadline.
- **Do not** include your name or any identification on the video itself. Applicants will be automatically disqualified if their name appears at any point in the video.
- Your audition submission should include the same movement(s) you will perform for the semifinals, if selected. No substitutions are allowed.
- Audition submission and semifinals concerto performances are limited to **20 minutes**.
- You may submit either single or multiple movements of a single piece, depending on length.
- The repertoire submitted must be a concerto from standard repertoire with a readily available orchestral accompaniment.
- The recording must be accompanied by piano or orchestra.
- Cut lengthy tuttis, both in the introduction and in the body of the movement, if applicable.



semifinal details

Once a competitor has made it into the semifinals of the Stulberg International String Competition, they must be prepared to meet the guidelines of the next stage of competition

GUIDELINES

- Semifinalists must be in Kalamazoo, Michigan on Friday, May 16 (rehearsals with collaborative pianists) and Saturday, May 17 (Semifinals and Finals performances). Semifinalists are strongly encouraged to arrive on Thursday, May 15 for rehearsals.
- Semifinalists must perform the piece/ movement(s) submitted in their application. No substitutions are allowed.
- Total time on stage will be no more than 20 minutes.
- Performances must be from memory.
- Twelve semifinalists will be chosen. More information will be sent to those selected.
- Collaborative pianists will contact you to arrange your rehearsal time after assignments have been made by the Stulberg Competition.
- Six finalists will be chosen from the twelve semifinalist.
- Semifinalists will prepare the first movement of the commissioned concerto to perform during the live semifinals round.

QUESTIONS?

Call (269) 343-2776

or email at

info@stulbergcomp.org





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