

# 15<sup>th</sup> RIGA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PIANISTS

October 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## General Rules

The 15<sup>th</sup> Riga International Competition for Young Pianists is open to participants of any nationality from 5 to 23 years (born after October 16<sup>th</sup> 2002) in categories for Solo and Four Hands performance. The 15<sup>th</sup> R/CYP Auditions will take place at the *Golden Hall, Riga Latvian Society* at Merkela Street 13, Riga, Latvia. Gala Concert will take place at the *House of the Black Heads, Ratslaukums 7, Riga, Latvia*. **Participation by a Video Recording, equally evaluated during the competition, will be accepted for groups Debut, Junior, Senior D, Senior 4 Hands.**

### Attention!

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the Senior Solo Groups A, B & C will be held entirely over the internet. Contestants will have to submit a Video recording over **YouTube** platform by August 20<sup>th</sup>. The performance of the 1<sup>st</sup> Round in a video should not be edited in any way, the recording must run continuously and should be recorded in one go. Concert videos are accepted! Contestants admitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of the competition will perform in Riga on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

## Application and Schedule

Applications are open on the competition website [www.rigapiano.info](http://www.rigapiano.info)

**August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Application Deadline for the participants of Senior Solo Groups A, B & C.**

**August 31<sup>th</sup>, 2026** The announcement of the **Finalists of Senior Solo Groups A, B & C** on the competition website.

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026: General Application Deadline for all categories.** Submitted Video Recordings for groups *Debut, Junior, Senior D* and *Senior 4 Hands* should be uploaded on **YouTube** platform by October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2026** Live Auditions at the *Golden Hall, Riga Latvian Society* at Merkela Street 13, Riga, Latvia.

### 1. Participation

Contestants of the Solo Category are required to perform their programs by memory in both in Live Audition as well as in Video Recording. Contestants of the *Piano 4 Hands Category* may perform with the score, although we encourage performance by heart.

### Contestants' Groups

- 1.1. **Debut**, 5 - 6 years
- 1.2. **Junior A**, 7 - 8 years
- 1.3. **Junior B**, 9 - 10 years
- 1.4. **Junior C**, 11 - 13 years
- 1.5. **Debut D**, up to 9 years /for non-professional piano students/
- 1.6. **Junior D**, 10 - 14 years /for non-professional piano students/
- 1.7. **Senior D**, 15 - 23 years /for non-professional piano students/
- 1.8. **Senior A**, 14 - 16 years
- 1.9. **Senior B**, 17 - 19 years
- 1.10. **Senior C**, 20 - 23 years
- 1.11. **Senior 4 Hands**, 14 - 19 years

## 2. Requirements for Video Recordings

The video must be taken with a fixed camera in which the contestant's hands are clearly visible. Preferred angle as in the picture:



Formal concert dress is required. The competitor may choose the order of the pieces. We strongly recommend the use of a grand piano for the recording. Good audio quality is highly recommended. **The video performance should be recorded in one go, it must run continuously from the beginning to the end and should not be edited in any way. Concert Videos are accepted!** The total duration of the program (including breaks between the pieces) should not exceed the required timing.

### Senior Solo Group A, B & C 1<sup>st</sup> Round

Please upload Video Recording of the **1<sup>st</sup> Round on YouTube** (Privacy settings: **PUBLIC**) and provide the Link at the *Application Form*. The planned program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round should also be provided in the *Application Form*. The video of the 1<sup>st</sup> Round must be titled: **RICYP-2026-Group-Name**.

### Debut, Junior, Senior D and Senior 4 Hands

If a video participation is chosen, please upload your Recording **on YouTube** (Privacy settings: **PUBLIC**) and provide the Link at the *Application Form*. The video must be titled: **RICYP-2026-Group-Name**.

## 3. Repertoire

### 3.1. Piano Solo

#### 3.1.1. *Debut (5-6 years)*

**Up to 5 minutes** in total: a set of contrasting folk tune arrangements by **Jānis Kepītis** (1908-1989) **Koklētājs** OR **Jānis Norvilis** (1906-1994) **Field of Songs**, OR piece/pieces from any composer and genre. The best performance of contrasting arrangements by **Jānis Kepītis** will be awarded. Scores are available on the Competition website.

#### 3.1.2. *Junior A (7-8 years)*

**Up to 7 minutes:**

1. contrasting folk tune arrangements by Ilze Arne (1953) OR **Jānis Kepītis** (1908-1989), OR piece/pieces from any composer and genre;
2. one folk tune arrangement by any composer OR piece/pieces from any genre;
3. one etude of contestant's choice.

Contestants choosing to perform contrasting arrangements by **Jānis Kepītis** (1908-1989) will qualify for the Special Kepitis Award. Scores are available on the Competition website.

#### 3.1.3. *Junior B (9-10 years)*

**Up to 8 minutes:**

1. contrasting folk tune arrangements by Romualds Kalsons (1936-2024) from the **12 Latvian Folk Tune Arrangements** OR piece/pieces from any composer and genre;

2. contrasting miniatures by **Jānis Kepītis** from the *Snow Flakes* OR piece/pieces from any composer and genre;
3. one etude of contestant's choice.

If competitor's program includes a highly virtuoso piece (I. Berkovich *Variations on Paganini*), is not necessary to play *Etude*.

Contestants choosing to perform contrasting miniatures by **Jānis Kepītis** (1908-1989) from the *Snow Flakes* (1939) will qualify for the Special Kepitis Award. Scores are available on the Competition website.

### 3.1.4. **Junior C (11-13 years)**

**Up to 10 minutes:**

1. contrasting *Latvian Folk Tunes for Piano* op. 29 OR op. 32 by Jāzeps Vītols (1863-1948), OR piece/pieces from any composer and genre;
2. one OR several, OR a set of Baroque period pieces (*Fugues, Inventions, Sinfonias*, movements from the *French Suites* by J. S. Bach, movements from the *Suites* by G. F. Haendel, D. Scarlatti *Sonatas* etc.);
3. one virtuoso concert style (programmatic) **Etude** by any composer but NOT Czerny. Suggested composers: A. Arensky, F. Burgmüller, A. Diabelli, I. Moscheles, M. Moszkowski, E. MacDowell, L. Rozycki etc.

The best performance of music by **Jāzeps Vītols** will be awarded. Scores are available on the Competition website.

**3.1.5. *Debut D (up to 9 years)*** only for pupils of General Education schools with piano classes (for non-professional piano students). **Up to 6 minutes:** Free choice of program - piece/pieces from any academic music composer and genre.

**3.1.6. *Junior D (10-14 years)*** only for pupils of General Education schools with piano classes (for non-professional piano students). **Up to 8 minutes:** Free choice of program including two or more contrasting pieces by at least two or more composers from different epochs. One **Etude** of contestant's choice also is recommended. Contestants choosing to perform contrasting miniatures by **Jānis Kepītis** will qualify for the Special Kepitis Award. Scores are available on the Competition website.

**3.1.7. *Senior D (15-23 years)*** only for pupils of General Education schools with piano classes (for non-professional piano students).

**10 to 15 minutes:** free repertoire consisting of two or more contrasting pieces by two or more composers from different epochs. Contestants choosing to perform one or more piano works by Douglas Munn (1929-2008) will qualify for the Special **Douglas Munn Award**. Scores are available on the Competition website.

**3.1.8. *Senior A (14-16 years): Two Rounds.*** First round will be held entirely over the internet. Contestants will have to submit a Video recording over YouTube platform **by August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

#### **I Round: performance up to 15 minutes**

Free repertoire recorded in one go, either concert performance or a recording session, consisting of two or more contrasting pieces by two or more composers from different epochs. A concert style etude is recommended, but it can also be a technically challenging virtuoso piece.

## **II Round: performance up to 20 minutes**

Free repertoire consisting of two or more contrasting pieces by two or more composers from different epochs, NOT performed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the competition.

Contestants choosing to perform one or more piano works by **Douglas Munn** (1929-2008) will qualify for the Special **Douglas Munn Award**. Scores are available on the Competition website.

Contestants choosing to perform **Anxiety (1956)** by **Jānis Kepītis** (1908-1989) will qualify for the Special **Jānis Kepītis Award**. Score is available on the Competition website.

Contestants choosing to perform **Daina** by **Jānis Medīņš** (1890-1966) will qualify for the Special **Jānis Medīņš Award**.

**3.1.9. Senior B (17-19 years): Two Rounds. First round will be held entirely over the internet.** Contestants will have to submit a Video recording over YouTube platform **by August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## **I Round: performance up to 20 minutes**

Free repertoire recorded in one go, either concert performance or a recording session, consisting of two or more contrasting pieces by two or more composers from different epochs. A concert style etude is recommended, but it can also be a technically challenging virtuoso piece.

## **II Round: performance up to 25 minutes**

Free repertoire consisting of two or more contrasting pieces by two or more composers from different epochs, NOT performed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the competition.

Contestants choosing to perform one or more piano works by **Douglas Munn** (1929-2008) will qualify for the Special **Douglas Munn Award**. Scores are available on the Competition website.

Contestants choosing to perform **Laugh (1956)** by **Jānis Kepītis** (1908-1989) will qualify for the Special **Jānis Kepītis Award**. Score is available on the Competition website.

Contestants choosing to perform **Daina** by **Jānis Medīņš** (1890-1966) will qualify for the Special **Jānis Medīņš Award**.

**3.1.10. Senior C (20-23 years): Two Rounds. First round will be held entirely over the internet.** Contestants will have to submit a Video recording over YouTube platform **by August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## **I Round: performance up to 25 minutes**

Free repertoire recorded in one go, either concert performance or a recording session, consisting of two or more contrasting pieces by two or more composers from different epochs. A concert style etude is recommended, but it can also be a technically challenging virtuoso piece.

## **II Round: performance up to 30 minutes**

Free repertoire consisting of two or more contrasting pieces by two or more composers from different epochs, NOT performed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the competition.

Contestants choosing to perform one or more piano works by **Douglas Munn** (1929-2008) will qualify for the Special **Douglas Munn Award**. Scores are available on the Competition website.

Contestants choosing to perform ***Delight (1956)*** by **Jānis Kepītis** (1908-1989) will qualify for the Special **Kepītis Award**. Score is available on the Competition website.

Contestants choosing to perform ***Daina*** by **Jānis Mediņš** (1890-1966) will qualify for the Special **Jānis Mediņš Award**.

### **3.2. Piano Four Hands**

#### **3.2.1. Junior 4 Hands (7-13 years)**

**Up to 10 minutes:**

A program of contrasting folk tune arrangements by any composer **AND/OR** classical ballet music **AND/OR** opera music transcription/transcriptions, **AND/OR** pieces of contestants' choice. The best performance of contrasting folk tune arrangements by **Jānis Kepītis** will be awarded. Scores are available on the Competition website.

**3.2.2. Junior D 4 Hands (up to 14 years)**, only for pupils from General Education schools with piano classes (for non-professional piano students). **Up to 8 minutes:** contrasting folk tune arrangements by any composer **AND/OR** classical ballet music, **AND/OR** opera music transcription / transcriptions **AND/OR** pieces of contestants' choice. The best performance of contrasting folk tune arrangements by **Jānis Kepītis** will be awarded. Scores are available on the Competition website.

#### **3.2.3. Senior 4 Hands (14-19 years)**

**Up to 15 minutes:** free repertoire consisting of two or more contrasting pieces by two or more composers from different epochs. We suggest to include folk tune arrangements by any composer **AND/OR** classical ballet music, **AND/OR** opera music transcriptions.

### **4. Jury**

The Jury is composed of internationally recognized pianists: Arta Arnicane (Latvia), Olga Paliy (Ukraine), Slawomir Wilk (Poland), Gintaras Janusevicius (Lithuania), Giulio Biddau (Italy). Competitors will be evaluated on a 100 – point system, each performance will be awarded the arithmetic mean from the overall sum of points. Adjudication of competitors' is only the Jury's prerogative. Main guidelines of the judging criteria: degree of repertoire difficulty, technical quality of the performance, stylistic adequacy and text precision, clarity and diversity of musical expression, and artistic presentation. All decisions of the Jury are final and cannot be appealed by anyone. Students of the Jury members are allowed to take part at the competition; the Jurors may not vote for their own students. From *Senior Solo Groups A, B & C* Jury will choose up to 10 Finalists to proceed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round. In case of several candidates in the same category and group obtaining an equal number of points, the Jury President has the final vote.

### **5. Application fee and deadlines**

**Senior Solo A, B & C: 120.00 EUR. Application deadline is August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

**Debut, Junior, Senior D and Senior 4 Hands: 65.00 EUR. Application deadline is September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

On the payment, full **Name** and **Group** of the competitor should be given. The fee will not be returned. Bank charges should be made by the contestants. Only complete applications with a paid application fee will be processed. To identify the application fee transfer, please make sure the Name and the Group of the contestant is entered correctly.

**Please make the payment at the same time as submitting the application.**

**Banking details:**

*RIGAS STARPTAUTISKAIS JAUNO PIANISTU KONKURSS RIGA INTERNATIONAL CYP*

Address: Pulkveza Brieza 8-17, Riga LV-1010, Latvia

Bank account / IBAN: **LV64 HABA 0551 0361 72008**

**BIC / S.W.I.F.T.: HABA LV22**

Bank address: AS Swedbank, Balasta dambis 15, Riga LV-1048, Latvia

By submitting the *Application Form 2026*, contestants agree to competition's *General Rules*. The list of registered contestants will be published on the competition website. The rights for video recording and broadcasting of the performances belong to the Competition. The *Riga International Competition for Young Pianists* may not be held liable for any payments to pianists arising out of materials derived from any Competition events.

**6. Prizes and Awards**

**Debut, Junior, Senior D and Senior 4 Hands group** will be provided with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize *Winners' Diplomas* depending on the results, or a *Certificate of Participation*.

**Special Awards for Debut and Junior Solo Groups:**

*Jānis Kepītis Award, Jāzeps Vītols Award*

**Special Awards for Junior 4 Hands Groups:** *Jānis Kepītis Award*

**Grand Prix of 1000 EUR for one outstanding finalist of the Senior Solo Group A, B or C**

**SENIOR A Solo**

1. Prize 300 €

**SENIOR B Solo**

1. Prize 300 €

**SENIOR C Solo**

1. Prize 300 €

**Special Awards:**

*Douglas Munn Award 200 EUR*

*Jānis Kepītis Award 200 EUR*

**Bravo** Award for outstanding competitor from Latvia **200 EUR**

**Feuerwerk Einbeck International Piano Academy Award-Masterclasses in Germany, 2027**

**Recital in Riga** for the finalists choosing to perform music by Jānis Kepītis and Jānis Mediņš

The Jury has the right to decide upon the amount of the Prizes given. The winners will be required to submit proof of age (a copy of a passport or an ID card) in order to receive their Money Prize.

**Closing Ceremony and Awards:** The Jury will decide upon the program and participants of the Laureate Concert before the Ceremony. All contestants are kindly requested to check their e-mails regularly on October 17<sup>th</sup> for the information in case they are invited to perform! Laureate Concert will start at 18.00 at the *House of Black Heads* situated in *Riga Old Town*, address Rātsnams 7.

Results will be announced after **October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026** on the competition website [www.rigapiano.info](http://www.rigapiano.info)