

**P**iano playing is a fantastic way to escape from the pressures of work, but there are few opportunities for amateur pianists to perform on the same stage as international celebrities. Dedicated to supporting and encouraging all musicians, Yamaha and the Pianist magazine have joined forces, in association with Classic FM, to offer a fantastic opportunity for you to demonstrate your skills in either classical or 'modern' music and provide you with an exciting goal – to play on stage in a famous London venue and win an acoustic Yamaha piano for your home! The top prize for each category is £10,000 for the piano of your choice. You may like an upright, silent, or perhaps a grand, or you could even put the money towards a larger grand or Disklavier! On reaching the finals, you will automatically receive a free year's subscription to Pianist magazine and two tickets for either one of Classic FM's concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, or a Jamie Cullum concert.

We would love to be able to see everyone perform, but due to the expected high number of applications, we initially need to listen to your performances on tape, mini-disc or CD for the preliminary round. Successful applicants will then be invited to the Yamaha headquarters to perform in front of a distinguished jury who will then select approximately eight finalists – four from the Classical category, four from the Modern. Finalists will be invited to perform on stage at Cadogan Hall in front of an audience and an esteemed panel, which includes Jamie Cullum, Laurie Holloway, Martin Roscoe and Kathryn Stott.

## How to apply

### General:

- The Competition is open to anybody who resides in the UK.
- You must be 30 years or over (born before 1 January 1975).
- You should not derive your principal source of income from performance or piano instruction.
- You should not be studying at a music school/conservatoire.
- You may have considered a professional career at some point in your life, and may have received piano degrees from a music school. That's fine, you're still eligible.

### Requirements:

- An unedited tape cassette, CD or mini disc recording of minimum two contrasting works played by you should be submitted along with the application form opposite (see 'Categories' heading opposite for further repertoire details). The recording must be without announcements and last no more than 15 minutes. Please bear in mind that the quality of your recording will affect the jury's ability to accurately judge your performance.
- You must submit a short covering letter – telling us a bit about yourself, your work, your hobbies and dreams – along with the recording and application form.
- You will be notified of the result of your entry by 26 August. All those entering should be aware that the semi finals will take place during the day on Sunday 25 September 2005 at the UK Yamaha headquarters in Milton Keynes. Semi finalists will be asked to perform a free-choice programme of no more than 15 minutes in front of a small jury. Works submitted for the recorded preliminary round may be performed again. We recommend performing at least two pieces of different styles at the semi finals.
- Approximately eight pianists will be chosen to go through to the finals. Finalists will be notified by 15 October 2005. Finalists will be asked to perform a free-choice programme of no more than 15 minutes, on stage, in front of an audience and jury. Works submitted for the preliminary and semi final rounds may be performed again. We recommend performing at least two pieces of different styles at the finals.
- You may perform with or without music – the choice is yours.

For any queries, e-mail: [amateurpianocomp@gmx.yamaha.com](mailto:amateurpianocomp@gmx.yamaha.com), or phone: 01908 369235

### Categories:

**CLASSICAL** – Your recording and subsequent performances must display contrasting classical styles with a minimum of two pieces (e.g. Classical & Romantic; Baroque & 20th Century; Baroque & Romantic, and so on). You are welcome to offer more than two works if not exceeding the 15 minutes.

**MODERN** – Your recording and subsequent performances must display at least two established 'modern' pieces in a style that you wish. The pieces should not be the applicant's own compositions. 'Modern' is defined as anything from Jazz, Rock, Latin, Salsa, Song, Cole Porter, Dave Brubeck, Billy Joel, Blues...you name it! We are looking for a personal and/or improvisatory approach to standard compositions. You are welcome to offer more than two works if not exceeding 15 minutes.

Please send your recording, cover letter, and application form to:

Leanne Hassan  
Pianist-Yamaha Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs  
c/o Yamaha, Sherbourne Drive,  
Tilbrook, Milton Keynes, MK7 8BL  
Tel: 01908 369235

Applications must be  
received no later than

**Friday 8 July 2005**

## Application Form

Please complete in full and submit with your recording and covering letter.

Which category do you wish to enter?  Classical  Modern

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Daytime: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Please affix colour  
passport size  
photograph here.