



2026 CIPC for Young Artists



Questions we asked ourselves



What are the goals for the next YA Competition?



How do we create excitement around it?



What is a good balance between the CIPC and CIPC for YA?



Institute-yes or no, and with what focus?

Overview of YA competitions

Approximately 104 competitions which are considered 'international'

Other major competitions in the US: Cliburn, Bachauer, Palm Springs, Hilton Head, Cooper, Pianoarts (Milwaukee)

Highest 1st prizes: Cooper, Milwaukee 20k; Bachauer, Cliburn, Aarhus 15k

Age limit of most competitions: 15-22 (most popular 17-21)

Advantages of CIPC for YA

Known among parents, students and teachers nationally and internationally

Feeding the senior competition

Lower budget than CIPC

Yunchan Lim being a past winner



2023 competition overview



213 applicants from over 20 countries



32 accepted to first round (recorded in 5 locations worldwide)



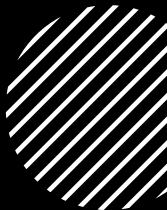
6 finalists-divided to two age groups



Chamber and orchestra rounds in CLE with the Canton Symphony



2023 competition overview (continued)



First prizes: 10k (senior), 5k (junior)



Institute in collaboration with CIM and the Lang Lang Foundation

Goals for 2026

1. Continuing to innovate

2. Allowing a fair opportunity to as many applicants as possible

3. Raising application numbers by at least 10%

4. Juries with YA expertise

5. Remaining cost effective

Goal 1:
Continuing to
innovate

Additional age group

Rising Star winner performs during finals

Masterclass Round

A 'big' name to play a recital and conduct masterclass round- **Jean Yves Thibaudet**

3 juries (2 virtual, one in person)

Goal 2: Allowing a fair opportunity to as many applicants as possible

2023

- Applications accepted: 32
- Age groups: 11-14, 15-18
- Rounds: 2
- Number of applicants heard in person: 6 (3, 3)

2026

- Applications accepted: 50
- Age groups: 10-12, 13-15, 16-18
- Rounds: 3
- Number of applicants heard in person: 13 (3, 5, 5)

Goal 3: Raising application numbers by at least 10%

Simplifying video requirements for application:
no need to record especially for application

Stronger marketing capabilities vs. 2023

2024 competition helped raise awareness

Focusing on schools for excelling young pianists
and untapped markets

Goal 4: Identifying juries with young artist expertise

Jury members who have a proven record in identifying talent and working younger age groups

International reputation and integrity

Background, age and gender diversity

2026 jury (selection)

Olga Kern- has her own Young Artist competition

Niklas Pokki- head of PD, Sibelius Acedemy, Finland

Alexander Schimpf- former CIPC winner, professor at Hannover School of Music

Xiaohan Wang- head of PD at Tianjin Juilliard school

Amy Yang- head of Young Artist programming at Curtis

Dorian Leljak- head of the World Piano Teachers Association

Goal 5: Remaining cost effective

Using only three recording venues, one in each continent (5 in 2023)

US based jury for preliminary round; International for virtual round; mixed for in person round

Live jury to teach at institute

Keeping more costly ideas to 2027 CIPC



Timeline

- May 1, 2025: Call for entries
- December 15, 2025: applications close
- January 2026: Preliminaries
- March 2026: Virtual First Round
- July 20-August 2: Semi Finals and Finals in Cleveland

THANK YOU!

