



University of Missouri System  
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

THE MISSOURI SYMPHONY



THE ODYSSEY CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SYSTEM, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE MISSOURI SYMPHONY PRESENT

# The Plowman

## Chamber Music Competition

PETER MIYAMOTO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • AYAKO TSURUTA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Plowman Chamber Music Competition in two categories:  
Piano & Strings · Brass, Woodwinds & Percussion

The Semi-Finals on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the First Baptist Church of Columbia  
The Finals and the Award Ceremony on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at the Missouri Theatre

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### JUDGES

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*Edward Auer, piano*

Indiana University

*Ida Kavafian, violin*

The Curtis Institute of Music

*Chien-Kwan Lin, saxophone*

The Eastman School of Music

(GUEST ARTISTS AND JUDGES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

### AWARDS

**\$5000**

**GRAND PRIZE AND ODYSSEY CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES AWARD (\$2000)**

**\$2500**

**TWO FIRST PRIZES, ONE IN EACH CATEGORY**

**\$1000**

**HONORABLE MENTION(S)**

**\$500**

**VIANELLO AUDIENCE PRIZE**

**JUDGES SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

## ELIGIBILITY

Open to instrumental ensembles of three to six players. Members must be interested in, or already pursuing a career in music. However, ensembles with management as of March 22, 2025 are not eligible. The ensemble may not have more than one piano. Piano is the only keyboard instrument eligible in the competition.

The Plowman Chamber Music Competition is unable to accommodate ensembles that require more than five minutes to set-up and tear-down time (i.e., numerous percussion instruments, complex electronic set-ups, etc.). However, Plowman will accommodate in the best manner possible as needed. The ensemble is responsible for arranging for, and/or bringing their instruments and music.

## CATEGORY

The ensemble's category is determined by the majority of instruments played in an ensemble. The Artistic Director reserves the right to determine the category for an ensemble with an equal number of strings and wind/brass instruments.

## AGE LIMIT

Each member must be under 40 years of age as of March 22, 2025.

## REPERTOIRE

Requirement: Minimum of two complete works of distinctly contrasting character, from at least two different musical periods, or composed 50 years apart, with more than 25 minutes of music.

YouTube Video unlisted link is the only basis for selection of the participating ensembles. The personnel submitted in the video must be the same at the competition; no substitutions will be allowed.

The repertoire may be changed for the Semi-Finals, so long as the change follows the Repertoire Guideline (above), and a recommendation letter, from a musician of an international stature is attached, stating the reason for the change and that the quality of the substitute piece(s) is acceptable. \*Finalist ensembles from the 2023 Plowman Chamber Music Competition are exempted from the preliminary recording audition, with submission of an application form and fees.

## APPLICATION FEE & DEADLINE

\$50 non-refundable fee for each member of the ensemble is due with the application on February 7, 2025. Any application or materials received after February 7 will be assessed \$60 fee for each member, and must be received no later than 5pm on Friday, February 14, 2025. Only online payments are accepted, which link is posted on the Plowman website after January 15. Application form and fees are required of all contestants.

PDF application form may be downloaded at [PlowmanCompetition.org](http://PlowmanCompetition.org). Notification of the Preliminary results will be sent by e-mail on Monday, February 24, 2025. No materials will be returned.

## SEMI-FINALS

No more than 15 qualifying ensembles are invited to compete. Semi-Finals take place Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the First Baptist Church of Columbia; the audition times are determined by lottery and are non-negotiable.

Semi-Final performances are ticketed and open to the public. Each ensemble will be given no more than 20 minutes to perform, which includes set-up time. The ensemble will decide the first 5-6 minutes and one movement/ piece of their performance; thereafter the judges reserve the right to stop the ensemble and conduct the rest of the program.

## FINALS & AWARD CEREMONY

Up to five ensembles, at least two from each category, will be chosen to proceed to the Finals. The Finals takes place on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 1:30pm in the form of a formal public concert at the historic Missouri Theatre. Each ensemble is given 30 minutes (set-up inclusive) to perform a program of their choice. No repertoire changes are allowed between Semi-Finals and Finals. Repertoire performed in the Semi-Finals may be repeated, however the judges reserve the right to request specific movement(s) or composition(s) not heard at the semi-finals. Immediately following the Finals Concert, winners will be announced at the Award Ceremony. Finalists are required to participate in the Award Ceremony in formal attire, otherwise they forfeit the award.

# INSTRUCTIONS

## VIDEO AUDITION RECORDING

Video each composition in its entirety, and combine into one file to upload onto one unlisted link on YouTube. Make every effort to submit high quality recordings. DO NOT include names of performers or ensemble or any spoken commentary. Always check if the link is working properly.

## E-MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

E-mail all materials to Ayako: [info@OdysseyMissouri.org](mailto:info@OdysseyMissouri.org). If you prefer, mail a hard copy of your fee or proof of age, to:

The Plowman Chamber Music Competition  
c/o Odyssey - First Baptist Church  
1112 E. Broadway  
Columbia, MO 65201-4910  
Tel: 573.825.0079

Your complete application must be received by the Odyssey Chamber Music Series (Odyssey) at First Baptist Church no later than 5:00pm on February 14, 2025.

## CHECK LIST

- Fully completed application form (3-4 pages).
- Include Ensemble Photo and Biograph(ies).
- Fee: Online, received on/before Feb 14 (\$50 per performer; \$60 per performer after Feb. 7).
- Proof of age (copy of passport, driver's license, etc.). Social Security or Tax I.D. of the representative payee of an ensemble, who is a U.S. citizen or has legal working status (green card, O-1 visa), or an entity (your school, company, organization based in U.S.).
- YouTube unlisted link; No names.

## COMPETITION AND PERFORMANCE

There are three stages to the competition: Preliminary video audition, Semi-Finals, and Finals. At the Semi-Finals, each ensemble will perform for the judges a portion of their prepared work. When the Preliminary results are announced by e-mail, the Semi-Finals audition time and other pertinent information will also be provided. Indicate on the application your choice of the first composition and movement with which you would like to begin the Semi-Finals performance. NO changes are allowed after March 1, 2025. Thereafter, the judges will be free to stop the performance at any time and select what they would like to hear next from your competition program.

## OUTREACH

The interested, best two ensembles available on March 22 may be asked to present in Columbia for an honorarium.

## THE FINALS AND AWARD CEREMONY

All finalists will be presented in a public concert on Sunday, March 23, 2025. Each ensemble will perform all or part of a work from the prepared repertoire. The repertoire for the Finals will be determined by the ensemble. Awards will be presented following the concert. The Odyssey Chamber Music Series retains the right to withhold any prize, if, in the opinion of the judges, it is not merited. The Odyssey Chamber Music Series cannot act as agent or manager.

## RESTRICTIONS

A member of the Grand Prize ensemble may compete in the Plowman Chamber Music Competition again, only if the ensemble consists of entirely new personnel and has a new ensemble name. No individual musician can be a member of more than one ensemble in the Competition. No changes in personnel or repertoire will be allowed once the application form is received by the Plowman Competition. Ensembles that perform repertoire with varied instrumentation must select works which use all members of the ensemble throughout the competition program. One representative member, who will claim the monetary award for an ensemble, must provide valid social security number or tax I.D. on the application. Failure to do so will require a withholding of 32% for federal taxes from the winner's prize. Grand Prize Winner will also be awarded the "Odyssey Award," a performance opportunity to return to Columbia, Missouri in 2025-2026 Season to give a concert for \$2000 in honorarium, payable after the return performance. If an agreed time cannot be decided by May 2025, the Odyssey Director reserves the rights to choose from one of the two First Prize winners, or cancel.

## SCORES

Each ensemble must provide a total of three original sets of scores of the competition repertoire at their Semi-Final audition. All ensembles must abide by the federal copyright law. Plowman Competition will not be liable for any copyright infringement. Photocopies may not be made to avoid purchasing scores needed for performers or judges. Consent from the publishers is acceptable; composer only if the work is not published.

## TRAVEL AND LODGING

All travel, lodging and meal expenses are the responsibility of the ensemble, as well as transportation of their own instrument(s). Further information will be provided to the Semi-Finalist ensembles. Any ensemble with one or more participant under the age of 18 must have a designated adult chaperone at the competition.