



TWENTY-FIFTH NATIONAL COMPETITION
2023
RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Rules and Regulations of the AHS National Competition are binding on all contestants, judges, legal advisor(s) and competition administration. Copies of these rules and regulations will be provided to every contestant and all judges.

A. COMPETITION DIVISIONS

1. The Competition is divided into five (5) Divisions:

Young Professional
Maximum age 30 years on 1 June, 2023

Advanced
Maximum age 21 years on 1 June, 2023

Intermediate II
Maximum age 18 years on 1 June, 2023

Intermediate I
Maximum age 15 years on 1 June, 2023

Junior
Maximum age 12 years on 1 June, 2023

2. The AHS may choose to cancel any division if fewer than three (3) contestants apply.

B. ELIGIBILITY

1. Contestants must hold current national membership in the American Harp Society.
2. All contestants will submit proof of citizenship, either as citizens of the United States or as citizens of the Americas.

C. THE PROGRAM

1. Contestants may perform the program in any order.
2. All compositions must be performed by memory.
3. All repeats are optional EXCEPT for the Handel *Concerto* in the Intermediate II Division.

D. PRELIMINARY SCREENING

1. The Preliminary round is conducted via video upload. See 'Guidelines for Making and Submitting Digital Video Recordings.'
2. The video recording will include all of the required repertoire.
3. The uploaded performance may stop between pieces and movements.
4. Pending the number of applicants, The AHS reserves the right to implement a second live, recorded stage to determine the 6-8 finalists in any given division.

E. FINAL DIVISION PERFORMANCES

1. Contestants will appear in a predetermined random order. The number or letter assigned will determine the performance order. This order will be announced at a meeting prior to the commencement of each division.
2. Every contestant will be entitled to complete his/her performance of the program and will not be interrupted by the judges.
3. The public is invited to attend the live competition division performances.
4. No applause or visible physical demonstrations of encouragement are allowed during the Junior, Intermediate I, Intermediate II, or Advanced division performances.
5. Applause is allowed in the Young Professional Division.
6. A contestant may enter only one Division.
7. Junior Division contestants will be screened from the judging panel.

F. JUDGES

1. A list of the members of the jury will be given to any contestant, upon request, following the Competition.
2. Judges will certify to the Chairman that none of the contestants is related to them nor has the contestant been a student of theirs within the previous twelve (12) months.

3. Judges will refrain from making any public statement whatsoever concerning the activities of the Competition.
4. The judges will vote by secret ballot.
5. Judges will not abstain from voting.

G. VOTING AND COUNTING

1. Judges will receive a ballot for each contestant from the Chairman of the Competition.
2. At the conclusion of each Division, judges will be asked to cast a ballot for each contestant.
3. Ballots will be cast individually by each judge without discussion.
4. In the event a situation occurs that is not covered by the preceding, then the 1st Place winner will be determined by a discussion among the judges, supervised by the Chairman.
5. The tabulation of votes will be supervised by the Legal Advisor and one other person designated by the Chairman.
6. The judges have the right to withhold any prize in any Division if the judges determine no contestant in that Division is considered qualified for such prize.
7. The decision of the judges is final.

H. THE CHAIRMAN

1. The Chairman shall be responsible for the management of the Competition. The Chairman represents the American Harp Society to the judges, the contestants, and all outside parties in all matters.
2. The Chairman is entrusted with the investigation of any infringements of the rules and may take any steps required in consultation with the Legal Advisor.
3. In all matters, the Chairman is authorized to delegate powers or specifically designated functions to others.
4. Public statements concerning the Competition will be issued only by the Chairman.
5. The Chairman will preside over the tabulation of the ballots.
6. The Chairman will publish the results.
7. The Chairman will explain the rules and procedures to the contestants and the judges.
8. The Chairman or designated surrogate will be present at all performances of the Competition.

I. THE LEGAL ADVISOR

1. The AHS will appoint a Legal Advisor whose function will be to advise in legal matters.
2. Decisions regarding questions of procedure not settled by these rules will be settled by the Chairman of the Competition, the Legal Advisor, and the National President of the American Harp Society, Inc.

J. PRIZES

1. Contestants will be awarded Certificates of Participation.
2. Prizes are presented to the winners at the Winners' Recital, following the completion of the final division performances. This recital will be recorded.
3. The winners of the 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd prize in each division may be expected to play without remuneration at the Winners' Recital. Excuse from this performance must be requested in advance.
4. The winner of the Young Professional Division will be presented at a national conference and will be the AHS Concert Artist for two years.
5. Winners must accurately represent their winning status at all times.

K. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Entry forms and all required material must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2023 Pacific Daylight Time. There will be no exceptions.
2. A \$50.00 entry fee is required. Entry fees are non-refundable.

L. LOGISTICS

1. Travel expenses to and from the Competition, including travel, harp transportation, meals and lodgings are the responsibility of the contestant.
2. The American Harp Society is not responsible for loss or damage to any harp in transit or during the Competition.
3. Harps will be provided upon request for the live final rounds. Harps will be strung with gut strings up to 2nd octave C.

M. RESTRICTIONS & PENALTIES

1. 1st Prize winners in any division are ineligible to compete in that division in future competitions.
2. If behaviors or circumstances warrant, the Chairman may impose the following penalties:
 - a. Reprimand
 - b. Censure
 - c. Exclusion from the proceedings