

17th International Beethoven Piano Competition 2025

Online video round – Information sheet

as of December 22, 2024

Repertoire:

In the Online Video Round, you will present two works by Beethoven. As stated in our Repertoire Requirements, you will choose the first work from Group 2 or 3 and the second from Group 4.

It is up to you whether you perform the two works back-to-back or in separate recordings. In any case, each recording of a piece must be made in one take, without an audience. Repeats are optional.

Recording:

Option I (recommended)

On the following dates, the mdw's recording team will give interested candidates the opportunity to record your repertoire on a Bösendorfer concert grand piano in the **mdw's concert hall** (FAL Hall), subject to limited capacity:

January 16 and 17, 2025 (all day)

February 3 and 4, 2025 (all day)

Those interested must register with Nicon Mladin (beethoven-comp@mdw.ac.at) and select a time slot that is available.

Before the selected time slot, it is possible to warm up and prepare in a practice room at the mdw (up to two hours before the actual time slot). We recommend arriving at the mdw at least 60 minutes before the selected time slot and reporting to the office: Future Art Lab of the mdw, 2nd floor, Anton-von-Webern-Platz 1, 1030 Vienna.

Right before the recording begins, there is the opportunity to try out the piano in the hall for up to 10 minutes. The actual recording begins when the candidate signals to the recording team that they are ready for the recording.

After the first piece, you can take a short break (up to 5 minutes), after which the second piece is recorded.

Once the recording of each piece has started, it is not possible to interrupt or restart the recording. It is also not possible to record an alternative version of the same piece.

After the second piece has been recorded, the recording is complete; the mdw recording team will make the recording available for the online video round. No further action is required on the part of the candidates.

Option II

Those who are unable to record at the mdw may, after consultation with the competition office and to a limited extent, have a recording made at the Vienna Bösendorfer Salon, by international Bösendorfer partners, or by music universities internationally. We will try to be of active help, please get in touch with us (beethoven-comp@mdw.ac.at).

The same requirements apply as for Option 1, and it should be noted again that only one "take" is possible with this option, meaning that multiple recordings of the same work are not permitted.

Please send the digital recordings to beethoven-comp@mdw.ac.at by February 15, 2025 at the latest, or make sure that the partners send the recordings to us in due time. We will confirm the correct transmission of the digital files.

Option III

If other options are out of the question for you, we alternatively accept the sending of private recordings or privately organized recordings in accordance with our guidelines (see below). The same conditions apply here as for the other two options - even if we cannot check whether pieces have been recorded more than once with this option. The jury will be informed of this restriction before the judging process.

The recordings must be received by the competition office in digital form by February 15, 2025 at the latest. **Submissions received after this date will not be considered.**

Evaluation and conclusion of the online video round:

From February 15, the recording will be made available to the jury internally for online evaluation, and the jury will have one month to evaluate it. The assessments of all members' votes will be collected, reviewed and confirmed by the mdw's legal team.

The results of the online video round will be communicated to all candidates on March 25. Up to 21 successful talents will be invited to the live rounds in Vienna.

The recordings of the successful candidates will be posted online on the homepage and will remain available there.

General guidelines for all video recordings:

Resolution: 1920x1080

Frame rate: 25p

Audio: Stereo

File Format: Prores-LT or H.264 (min. 10Mbit) stereo sound (min. AAC-256kbit - better PCM)

Clean-Feed

Audio system:

ORTF pair with two cardioids (Neumann KM140 or KM184) placed 1.5m apart in front and middle of the piano (height: 1.5m)

Camera setup:

Use 1 (one) camera with the following angle:

Static front wide shot showing the whole piano, the camera is at a slight angle so that the hands are visible.



Recordings will be vision mixed live with embedded sound.
