



Information and Rules

Marlow Guitar International Virtual Youth Guitar Competition

Sponsored by Myrna Sisen

History: The MGI Youth Guitar Competition is a community program of Marlow Guitar International, a 501(c)3 organization headquartered in Rockville, MD. From 2007 unto 2019 the Competition was known as the MGI John and Susie Beatty Music Scholarship Competition for Classical Guitar. In 2020 we have a new name and several other exciting changes to announce. Please read the rules in their entirety and get your application in as soon as possible.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on large gatherings, we have had to postpone our live competition from the March 13-15, 2020 dates and move our competition online. This is a new format for us, and we considered long and hard how to create the fairest and most valuable competition to all participants.

Application Information: Only those contestants that already submitted Part A and Part B of their applications by the required deadlines in January and February are eligible to compete. See original rules for other eligibility requirements.

Rules: All rules from the original 2020 MGI Youth Guitar Competition format apply unless expressly modified in this document.

Awards: All contestants will receive a participation certificate and swag bag with T-shirt and other items. These will be mailed to you or other delivery arrangements can be made. All semifinalists will receive a trophy corresponding to their final prize placement. These trophies will be mailed following the final round performances.

Prize money will be mailed to winners after receipt of the contestant's W-9 form.

Berta Rojas Grand Prize: In addition, the Berta Rojas Grand Prize will be awarded to the student demonstrating the highest level of talent, skill, and accomplishment. This student will receive an additional scholarship of \$1500 and the opportunity to play a short recital as an opening act for the John E. Marlow Guitar Series Performance at a date to be announced once the concert series is resumed. This prize is sponsored by Jim and Amy Cutts in honor of their friend and the first Artistic Director of the MGI Competition.

Virtual Competition Structure: The MGI Virtual Youth Guitar competition features three rounds of play. All contestants participate in the preliminary round for their division. At least 5 contestants in each division will advance to the semifinal round. Two contestants from each division will advance to the final round.

Preliminary Round: Each contestant is to supply a YouTube video link to the Competition@MarlowGuitar.org email address by **Midnight EDT Saturday April 18.**

These are to be continuous-take recordings of your division set piece played from memory and a second piece of your choosing. The set piece must be played first. Contestants must announce their program before they play (you may introduce both pieces at the same time or immediately before playing each one).

Seniors may use tuners (seriously, how would we enforce that rule?). There is no penalty for exceeding the time allowed (total playing time not to exceed 10 minutes) but judges may stop evaluating when time is up. Time starts with the first note played, however, don't waste the judges' time tuning and setting up with the camera rolling at the start. Take the time you need between pieces, but again, be mindful of their time just like you would in a live setting. The time spent between pieces does count in your overall time.

Preliminary Round Results: Announced no later than 8 pm Tuesday April 21st. If results are available earlier, they will be announced as soon as possible.

Those that do not advance to the semifinal round will have an opportunity to schedule one-on-one live 5-minute masterclass-style reviews with each judge. As the judges have ongoing teaching commitments, not all meetings may be completed immediately. These will be conducted over Zoom or similar technology.

Semifinal Round: Each semifinalist contestant is to supply a YouTube video link to the Competition@MarlowGuitar.org email address by **Midnight EDT Thursday April 23rd**.

These are to be continuous-take recordings of your long program. You are not required to play the set piece in this round and repetition of pieces played in the preliminary round is allowed.

The program lengths for each division are:

- Senior: 12 to 15 minutes
- Junior: 9 to 13 minutes
- Youth: Approximately 10 minutes

As in the preliminary round, time is started with the first note played and includes the time taken in transition between pieces. You will not be penalized if you go over the time allowed but the judges may stop evaluating your performance if you do.

Semifinal Round Results: Announced no later than noon EDT Sunday April 26th.

Final Round: Finalists will perform live via Zoom meeting starting at 6 pm Sunday April 26th.

The two Youth Division finalists will perform first, followed by the two Junior finalists and then the two Senior finalists. Order of play will be drawn randomly via Zoom meeting as soon as possible after the semifinal results are announced.

Final results will be announced as soon as possible after the live performances have concluded.

All contestants will have an opportunity to schedule one-on-one live 5-minute masterclass-style reviews with each judge. As the judges have ongoing teaching commitments, not all meetings may be completed immediately after your final performance round. These will be conducted over Zoom or similar technology. Some may occur on Wednesday or Thursday between the preliminary round results announcement and the deadline for Semifinal submissions for those that did not advance to the semifinals. The rest will occur on Monday April 27th.

Results Announcements: Results will be announced on our Facebook and Twitter accounts and emails will be sent to all contestants, parents, and teachers.

Posting of performances to MGI social media accounts or websites: By participating in the MGI Virtual Youth Guitar Competition, you agree that MGI may post your performance videos to MGI's social media accounts and website. Only prize-winning (semifinalist and finalist) performances will be posted. This is in the interest of transparency, fairness, and celebration.

If you do not already follow us you can find us here:



@MGIYouthGuitar



@MarlowGuitar



@MGIYouthGuitar



@MarlowGuitar

Memorization: Memorization of the entire program is strongly recommended, but students will be allowed to read their music if they wish. Memorization of the required piece in the preliminary round is mandatory of all students. Please note the position of your music stand and the camera angle and make sure that your hands and the guitar strings are fully visible if you do not have your program memorized.

Required Music: Required music for the Preliminary Round of the MGI Youth Guitar Competition:

Youth Division: *"A Breeze through the Leaves"* by Ms. Dale Kavanagh

Junior Division: *"Washing Waves Against the Stone"* by Ms. Dale Kavanagh

Senior Division: *"A Day on Sylt"* by Ms. Dale Kavanagh

As in all music, metronomic (tempo) indications given for the pieces are guides only. The actual performance tempo is an artistic decision of the performer. However, the spirit of all musical indications (andante, ritardando, etc.) should be honored. Contestants are not obligated to use the Composer's suggested fingerings, if any are given.

The Use of Tuners on Stage: Contestants may use electronic tuners if they wish once on the stage. If you do choose to use a tuner, please be efficient with your time and do so quickly. *Guitars should be tuned prior to the start of recording your videos to be uploaded to YouTube.*

Program: Because the music programs must be mailed to the judges, no changes to the submitted music will be allowed. You do not have to play all pieces you submitted in your Part B packets, you just can't add any new ones.

YouTube Video Requirements: Videos are to be filmed in one continuous take.

The camera view should show the contestant's entire body, and the camera/microphone should be placed in front of the sound hole for the guitar. The camera/microphone should be 8-10 feet from the performer. Test out your computer, phone, tablet, etc. to evaluate which provides the best sound recording. Make sure there is good lighting on the performer.

Links provided can either have a **public setting** (anyone can search for and view your recording) or **unlisted** (anyone with the link can view your recording). *Do not use the Private setting (requires passwords to view).*

Changes: Marlow Guitar International and the MGI Youth Guitar Competition management reserve the right to make changes to the competition structure and requirements. Any changes will be sent to accepted applicants and announced on our social media sites (Facebook and Twitter) and on our website https://www.marlowguitar.org/youth_competition/. All contestants are encouraged to follow us on these platforms.

Date of last change to document: October 29, 2019