



2023 Competition Information and Rules

Competition Dates: **March 24-26, 2023**

History: The MGI Myrna Sislen Youth Guitar Competition is a community program of Marlow Guitar International, a 501(c)3 organization headquartered in Rockville, MD. From 2007 until 2019 the Competition was known as the John and Susie Beatty Music Scholarship Competition for Classical Guitar. The name today is the MGI Myrna Sislen Youth Guitar Competition reflecting the long-term commitment from Myrna Sislen to ensure funding for the competition.

Application Information: Application for the MGI Myrna Sislen Youth Guitar Competition is made in two parts. Part A is information about you that we need for planning the Competition and requires commitment on your part to broadly plan your program, but you are able to make changes after submitting this portion. Part B includes copies of your music, the signed parental consent forms, and your application fee if you are paying by check. Please read the rules in their entirety and get your application in as soon as possible.

Important changes to the 2023 Competition: In this year's competition we are *changing the age ranges* that correspond to the competition divisions. This is to evenly spread the competitors among the divisions, ensure three years for seniors to compete if they wish, and more appropriately align with middle school and high school ages.

We are also *instituting a \$100 application fee*. This fee will be used to offset a portion of our costs as we strive to continue the high-quality experience you have come to expect from us. Please note that scholarships are available to cover the application fee for families that cannot afford to pay it. Please write to competition@marlowguitar.org to receive scholarship information.

Part A of your application is due Monday January 23, 2023 and it consists of:

1. Part A Application Form completed on Survey Monkey at this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MGIMSYGC2023>
2. Note that if you decide to change something in your application after you submit it, you do not have to re-enter all information – just enter your name and the new information into the survey form or send the new information via email to Competition@Marlowguitar.org
3. A high-quality digital photograph, resolution of 2-to-8-megapixel density and the file should be at least 1 MB in size. The photo will be used in our printed competition program and may be used for other promotional purposes. The best image is a close in photo of your face, framed well with the background. The photo will be approximately 1-inch square in the program, printed in black and white.

Your application is not complete until these items have been received and you will get a return receipt when we receive your application. You will be notified when your application has been accepted. (Note, it may take us 24-48 hours to get back to you.)

Part B of the application is due (postmarked) by Monday, February 20, 2023

1. Parental consent form filled out and signed.
2. Your application fee if paying by check, made out to *Marlow Guitar International*. You may also pay your application fee online using the link: [Link to pay my application fee on MarlowGuitar.org](#)
3. Make sure to say that you want your “donation” to go towards the Myrna Sislen Competition.
4. 4 copies of your music program. These can be photocopies.

Your completed Part B of the application should be mailed to

Marlow Guitar International Youth Guitar Competition
451 N. Hungerford Dr., Suite 119-482,
Rockville, MD 20850.

Your application is not complete until we receive these forms.

Marlow Guitar International and the management of the competition reserve the right to limit the number of applicants accepted to ensure completion of the competition over the three days. Applications will be accepted in the order in which they are received if limitations are imposed. Students will be notified by email that their application was accepted and the approximate time they will be performing in the preliminary round of the competition. Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Management.

Eligibility: Students 18 years old and younger that have not yet graduated high school are eligible to compete in the MGI Myrna Sislen Youth Guitar Competition. The age of the student as of January 1, 2023 determines eligibility. Students must live in the states of Maryland or Virginia, or in Washington, DC, USA.

Affiliation: Family members (children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews) of MGI staff, MGI's Board of Directors, or the MGI Myrna Sisen Youth Guitar Competition staff are ineligible to compete for monetary prizes in the MGI Sisen Competition. However, family members may perform and compete for non-monetary awards. If a familial contestant were to win a prize that would normally earn a cash award, they will be deemed as tied with the next lower placing nonrelated contestant and that nonrelated contestant would be awarded the prize money.

Returning Applicants are encouraged to compete again in the MGI Myrna Sisen Youth Guitar competition. However, returning applicants will not be allowed to repeat the program pieces they have presented in the previous year of the competition. That is, students in the 2023 MGI Myrna Sisen Youth Guitar Competition are required to perform new pieces that are different from the ones they presented in the 2022 MGI Competition. If you listed a piece in your program but did not play it during the competition in 2022, you may play it in the 2023 competition.

Grand Prize Winners and Division Winners from the Prior MGI Youth Guitar Competitions are welcome to participate in the 2023 MGI Myrna Sisen Youth Guitar Competition provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

National Competition Prizewinners are ineligible to compete in the 2023 Competition if they have won a top-3 prize in a national or international competition for classical guitar, including but not limited to the GFA Youth Competition. Awards won for non-classical guitar performances will not affect eligibility.

Age Divisions: Three age divisions will compete for MGI Sisen Competition Prizes

Youth Division: Students **11 years old and younger**

Junior Division: Students **12-14 years of age**

Senior Division: Students **15-18 years of age**

The competitor's age is determined by their age as of January 1, 2023.

Division Prizes: In each division, five monetary awards will be presented as follows:

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|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| First Prize: | \$700 | Third Prize: | \$300 | Fifth Prize: | \$100 |
| Second Prize: | \$500 | Fourth Prize: | \$200 | | |

Contestant Awards: All contestants will receive a participation certificate and swag bag with T-shirt and other items. All semifinalists will receive a trophy corresponding to their final prize placement. These trophies will be awarded on Sunday night following the final round performances. **We ask that all prizewinners be present at the award ceremony so that they can be honored and celebrated.**

TAX Forms: Checks will be mailed after the competition and if appropriate, winners will be required to submit a W-9 form before prizes will be released. No prize money will be distributed at the competition.



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 \$1,500 and the opportunity to play a short recital as an opening act for the John E. Marlow Guitar Series Performance in March or April 2022. This prize is sponsored by Jim and Amy Cutts in honor of their friend and the first Artistic Director of the MGI Sislen Competition.

Composer's Prize: In the 2023 MGI Myrna Sislen Youth Guitar Competition, a special prize will be given for the best performance of a composition written by Italian composer *Emilia Giuliani Guglielmi* (1813-1850). The award of this special scholarship will be chosen from any age division and at any round of the competition at the judges' discretion. Contestants who include music written by this composer in their performance program are eligible for this award.

Note: A composition is defined as an original work, an arrangement, or a transcription published by Ms. Giuliani.

The winner of the Composer's Prize will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Application Fee: All applicants are required to pay a \$100 application fee. We are aware that this may be too high of a financial barrier to some applicants, so if you are not able to afford this fee, please email us at Competition@marlowguitar.org as scholarships are available. This fee will help us defray some of the costs of putting on this event while maintaining the same benefits you have come to expect from the MGI Sislen Competition. The fee may be paid by check and included with Part B of your application, or you may pay online through the Marlow Guitar website donation page. Please make sure to check the box to support the MGI Competition. When you submit Part A of your application, we will ask you to tell us how you plan to pay the application fee.



Competition Structure: The MGI Myrna Sislen 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 (if there are fewer than 5 contestants, all contestants will advance). Two contestants from each division will advance to the final round. The schedule will be determined by the numbers in each division. We will work with you to accommodate conflicts if possible.

The Final Round for all contestants will be held Sunday evening, March 26. Start time TBD.

All performances will be broadcast live on our Facebook page and may also be recorded for posting on the MGI YouTube Channel.

Exact start times for each division will be sent to all contestants and will be posted to our social media sites. If you do not already follow us you can find us here:



@MGIYouthGuitar



@MarlowGuitar



@MGIYouthGuitar



@MarlowGuitar

Preliminary Round:

Contestants play their division's required piece (see below for division specifications) and one piece of the contestant's choosing.

The required piece shall be played first.

Total playing time not to exceed 10 minutes.

The piece chosen by the student may be originally written for guitar or a transcription approved by the student's teacher and should demonstrate a contrasting style to the required piece. Semifinalists will be chosen from the performances in this round to continue to the second round.

Semifinal Round:

- Students are asked to perform a short program of music of their choosing. The music chosen by the student can be originally written for the guitar or transcriptions approved by the student's teacher and should demonstrate the contestant's ability to play contrasting musical styles.
- The contestants may repeat the pieces played in the preliminary round.
- The program lengths for each division are:
 - Senior: 12 to 15 minutes
 - Junior: 9 to 13 minutes
 - Youth: Approximately 10 minutes
- Following the semi-final performances, the 3rd thru 5th prize winners in each division will be selected and announced.
- The two players selected to advance to the final round in each division will be announced at the end of the semifinal round. In the final round contestants will repeat their semifinal program. Trophy prizes will be awarded at the Competition Finals on Sunday night.

Final Round:

- Students will repeat their semi-final program in the final round.
- All 1st and 2nd place winners, the Composer's Prize winner and the grand prize winner will be announced at the end of the final round and all awards will be presented following the final round.
- All contestants are encouraged to watch the broadcasts of the 2021-2022 Season MGI Marlow Series Performers. Performances are provided free of charge at the original broadcast. Members of Marlow Guitar International are also granted access to watch at any time following the original broadcast of the performance.
- The grand-prize winner will perform a short program of approximately 4-6 minutes selected from their program played during the MGI Sislen Competition at the March or April concert of the Marlow Guitar Series.

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.

Required Music: For the 16th Annual MGI Myrna Sislen Youth Guitar Competition, Marlow Guitar International asked composer Candice Mowbray, USA, to write the required pieces for each division. These are posted to the competition website at www.MarlowGuitar.org.

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

Youth Division: *“Prestissimo: Homage to Ida Presti”* by Candice Mowbray

Junior Division: *“Mimita: Homage to Maria Luisa Anido”* by Candice Mowbray

Senior Division: *“Little Songbird: A Viennese Fantasie in Homage to Luise Walker”* by Candice Mowbray

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 in the Youth and Junior Divisions 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. SENIORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE TUNERS ONCE ON STAGE.

Program: Applicants are required to specify their entire program in their application (please see guidelines for program length specifications by division) – these are the pieces that will be played in the preliminary and semifinal rounds in addition to the required piece. Prior to starting their performance in each round, the student will announce to the jury which pieces they will play in that round from this program. The required piece shall be played first in the preliminary round. Students should provide 4 copies of their music with their application for the judges’ reference.

In Part A of the application, we ask you to list all pieces you plan to play during the competition. You may list more pieces than you actually intend to play if you can’t decide between pieces now – and you may make changes if you need to when you submit your music with Part B of your application or by contacting the competition staff at Competition@MarlowGuitar.org.

Note: Contestant compositions are allowed, however, contestants are strongly encouraged to choose their music programs from the established repertoire of guitar music and transcriptions for the guitar rather than their own compositions – the unfamiliarity of the new compositions can lead the judges to incorrectly penalize the contestant’s playing and performance skills even when the music is performed as written.

COVID-19 Vaccination Status: to ensure the safety of all participants, families, teachers, and staff who participate in person, documentation of full (at least 2-dose) vaccination for COVID-19 will be required. We recommend wearing a mask but it is not mandatory.

Changes: Marlow Guitar International and the MGI Myrna Sislen 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://marlowguitar.org/myrnasislen/> All contestants are encouraged to follow us on these platforms.

Part A of your application is to be submitted online using the Survey Monkey Link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MGIMSYGC2023> no later than Monday January 23, 2023.

Part B of your application is to be MAILED. It only needs to be postmarked by Monday, February 20, 2023.

Do not delay in submitting Part A of your application as we may not be able to accept late entries.

You may make changes to your music program after you submit Part A and you may also list more pieces in your program than you plan to play in case you can't decide which one you like better when submitting your application.

Date of last change to document: November 21, 2022