



## Section 11 A. Artistic Awards

Special recognition Awards for achieving Artistry in Expression (Namesake of the Competition: *Sound Espresso*).

Artistic Awards are created to help musicians take a deeper look at their own unique artistic value and their personality.

Highest Honor Awards on the spectrum of Sound Espresso Competition.

Artistic Awards monetary and other tangible tokens of recognition will be determined and announced by the SEC Board prior to the start of the Competition Semi Finals in January 2022.

Contestants may choose to aim their presentations towards receiving these Awards, by choosing the repertory to reflect their preferred Artistic Awards' Category, by embellishing their performance with oral, visual, storytelling, other additional formats, and/or by announcing their intention to be considered for a specific Category of Artistic Awards.

Artistic Awards are a separate set of awards from those described in Par. 11.

Artistic Awards can be awarded in addition, in conjunction with other Awards and Prizes, or/and by itself.

There will be no more than ONE Contestant out of the entire Competition chosen for an Award in each of the 9 (Nine) Artistic Categories.

Judges Panels, in consultation with SEC Board, have complete discretion to bestow all Artistic Awards, or some, or none.

**Artistic Awards Categories:**

- Program
- Virtuosity
- Miniature
- Lyrical

- Profound
- Swift
- Innovative
- Academic
- Music Ambassador

## Lyrical

Allure with your expression and emotional delivery of the music!

### In-Depth

The voice is known to be the most naturally lyrical instrument due to how much we can feel and hear the connection in the lines of music and the changes in music and sound being so smooth and emotional. This is the root of the goal when trying to deliver a very lyrical performance, as well as having emphasis on delivering power of emotion in combination with a sensation of compassion and connection of what we are hearing to what we are feeling in a very personal way.

### General Criteria

**Great Voice Line Control** - melody lines and other voices in the music should always be going somewhere and longing to connect and express something, luring the listener to follow its path.

**Balance** - with music having different moments or even voice lines, having a well thought out approach for balancing these in relation to each other and different sections is invaluable

Tone and Color - choice of tone type and colors can enhance and enrich the expression of the music

Captivating Presence - moving in smooth and elegant ways can complement the music's smoothness and blissful expression and therefore enhance the captivating elements of being lyrical.

## Virtuosity

Impress with your technique and astonish with your thrilling spark!

### In-Depth

Virtuosity is all about exciting and impressing the audience with a multitude of things artistically mixed including speed, technique, accuracy, and different types of intensity of expression. The more virtuosic your performance, the more the audience will be captivated by your playing impressing the audience as a virtuoso. An "own the stage" presence is extremely effective and plays a significant role here.

### General Criteria

**Faster Tempos** - these create large momentum and therefore a sense of danger in loss of control, therefore bringing excitement through the music

**Remarkable Accuracy** - pushing the limits of playing is only remarkable if the player stays in full capability and stability. Challenging Choices - choice of more difficult options technically for purpose of both impression and no less musical cleverness. These may include certain changes in fingerings, bowings, etc.

**Dramatic Expression** - the most striking resemblance of a virtuoso is their ability to drastically switch between different moods and modes of music with ease. Will be on the lookout for this. **Star-like Presence** - visual presentation of the music can play a crucial role in impressing the audience as a virtuoso. An "own the stage" presence is extremely effective and plays a significant role here.

### **Miniature**

**Present a small but highly impressive piece of music in the most magical way!**

#### **In-Depth**

Less is more when it comes to artists that fall in love with miniatures and stand-alone works.

There is something truly magical about small and often simple works of music being able to have some of the most powerful and charming effects on us. This sort of music requires a unique technique and attention to detail and presentation to capture the magic hidden inside and bloom it to the listeners.

#### **General Criteria**

**Short and Sweet** - miniatures must be concise in composition enough to really fit this unique form of performance and music expression.

**Convincing** - there is no time to warm up to the music, from first to last note the piece requires a remarkably high and above preparation and spotless delivery to work.

**Personality** - it is crucial that we can hear you in the music and your own musicianship through it to make the performance personal and connect with the listener.

**Presentation** - Good planning and some attention to visual presentation can go a long way in making the final ironing out of this style and charming the audience into falling in love with the

### **Program**

**Prepare a collection of music with a message and express yourself through dedicating to a theme!**

#### **In-Depth**

Artists can prepare large programs of music surrounding some connection between them, be it a composer or a collection of that composer's works, or a message and style discovered by the artist. It is invaluable to be able to prepare large collections of music and study a large grasp of the repertoire that exists and combine it into something massive. This sort of performance can be grandeur and especially moving, as well as revealing connections for audiences that the most dedicated artists believe in and want to express.

### **General Criteria**

**Length and/or Variety** - it is basic that a prepared program has either large variety or is dedicated to a consistent style and theme for substantial amounts of time.

Pondering over something grand takes a lot of music.

**Connection** - knowing a lot of repertoires is not enough without a meaning to tie it together, and such meaning needs to be heard beyond program notes and through playing and organized planning of order and presentation.

**Immersion** - the idea and goal of the program must captivate in a unique way that keeps the audience drawn in exploring your masterful concert as it goes on and keeping them engaged with you on what matters.

**Story** - it is extremely exciting to have a collection of music tell some sort of story and express something. This helps a program from becoming static and difficult to digest and is key to winning the audience over onto your journey of exploration.

### **Ambassador**

Conquer the attention of your audience by embodying the role of an advocate of music by sharing your passion in creative ways.

### **IN DEPTH**

It is essential to the arts to have people that can bring out the magic of music through their performance and pull in the attention of listeners and audiences. An artists' manner on stage and way of presenting themselves and their performance, their methods of getting the audience's interest and attention are all powerful tools. Presenters wishing to excel in this category can take advantage of prefacing their performance with talk, humor and interactions and any other creative means of expression and connection to empower their performance.

### **General Criteria**

**Presentation** - how well do you present and hold yourself. Also how do you approach your expression on stage and how you deliver your performance.

**Engagement** - how effective are you at grabbing the attention of your audience and holding onto it.

**Conviction** - how convincing are you at what you are doing

**Innovation** - how fresh and new is your presentation or how fresh does it come across.

### **Innovative**

**Find ways to express music that has never been heard before and charms everyone away!**

### **In-Depth**

There is lots of music that has withstood ages and generations, but such music was once new and innovative, composed or performed in a way that was never heard or seen before. Without new, there can be no progress to new heights and discoveries.

The difficult part is always finding something new that can connect the audience to your idea and get them to be able to follow along and join on your moving train of transformation.

### **General Criteria**

**New** - purpose of innovation is to try and explore new ways of expressing and delivering music that enriches our experience of it from a new angle. This is essential.

**Cohesive** - all elements of what you are doing must be wrapped neatly together for you to be able to string along others on your journey, especially people who may not arrive at the comprehension the same way you did

**Meaning** - all the new needs to have a goal greater than just being different and "not done before." It needs to serve and express a meaning and connect to a feeling and the audience.

**Resonant** - the last and particularly important part of coming up with new creative interpretations and pursuits is for it to be innately clear enough that it can truly impact us and turn some heads.

### **Profound**

**Reveal the depth and hidden meanings with your well-thought-out expression!**

#### **In-Depth**

A philosophical and profound understanding and delivery of music can bring out some really moving, emotionally personal and jarring qualities. Profound playing can be heard many times over and make us feel as if we never get enough because there is always more to understand and feel.

### **General Criteria**

**Unique Tempo Choice** - tapping into a thorough and un-rushed interpretation is not easy and requires a particular approach to tempo in relation to the music to really deliver.

**Use of Silence** - profound playing requires valuing sound and silence equally and using silence as a major part of expression with the goal to captivate and draw in the listener.

**Tone and Color** - choice of tone type and colors can enhance and enrich the expression of the music.

**Hypnotizing Presence** - atmosphere and mood embracing movement and appearance can put the audience in the right aspect for receiving the depth of the music you are trying to convey.

### **Academic**

**Deliver the most genuine performance that would embody the composer and take us to their world!**

### **In-Depth**

It is remarkable how time effects our interpretation, especially as cultures move on to new ways of

living and interpreting the world around them. Music is timeless and can take us to place and times away from the present moment and into the world and mind of the composer. An academic performance attempts to take us to this place and accurately depict the music as close as possible to the way the composer envisioned it. Artists do this by educating themselves about history and studying composers of the same time and using this to best transform the stage into a gramophone of the past to the audience through themselves.

### **General Criteria**

**Genuine Style** - stylistic playing matching the style known to be played at the time of the composer is core to delivering an accurate performance.

**Genuine Interpretation** - all markings and versions of the music need to have been thoroughly understood and expressed closest to the composer's will and intention.

**Far and Beyond** - it is encouraged and is exciting to see a visual representation of the times in addition to the playing that reflects the time the music was written in and pays respect to the music's history.

## **Swift**

### **Show off incredible speeds and blow us away with your crisp playing!**

### **In-Depth**

Playing music is just as athletic as any sport, requiring a large amount of precision and training to perfect the art. Some musicians find excitement in pushing the bounds of fast playing to levels beyond our imagination and comprehension, showing the world what humans are capable of. Swift performers work to push the metronome to its breaking point and impress in a clear-cut way.

### **General Criteria**

**Extreme Tempo** - speed of switching between notes and coordinating faster is one of the two key components to impressing the club of swift players.

**Extreme Accuracy** - accuracy of landing every note and change is the other key component to flashy playing.

**Marvelous Presentation** - playing fast is one thing but looking as if you did not break a sweat doing it and had time to wink at the crowd can truly bring the heat to the audience.

**Consistency** - staying flashy is great but doing it for the entire duration of a piece and testing on bigger and harder works without faltering is showing true mastery.