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The world's best young pianists compete in Los Angeles at international competition.

The world's best young pianists will converge on Los Angeles this spring for a competition that honors one of Europe's greatest musical heroes and statesmen.

The 25 semi-finalists will take part in the Third American International Paderewski Piano Competition to be held March 21 to 26 at Loyola Marymount University in west Los Angeles. The semi-finalists will be winnowed to six who will all be vying for a \$10,000 prize and the opportunity to perform in concert in the U.S., France, Italy and Poland.

The competition carries on the legacy of Ignacy Jan Paderewski (ig-NAH-see yawn pad-er-EV-ski), not only a celebrated concert pianist and composer, but also a leader in the Polish fight for independence after World War I and the nation's prime minister. In his later years, he resided in Paso Robles, California, and died at age 80 in New York in 1941.

"Paderewski was an inspirational figure, who throughout his life supported many worthy causes, including careers of young musicians. There can be no better way to honor his legacy than to follow in his footsteps and help the best young pianists from around the world in their development, while bringing together aficionados of piano music in a world-class event" said Wojciech Kocyan (VOY-check co-SEE-yan), the Artistic Director of the Paderewski Music Society who co-founded the competition in 2010. The competition stands out among other international competitions for its free programming, which allows the pianists to fully express their unique artistic personalities.

This year, 72 contestants between the ages of 16 and 30 have registered for the preliminaries, submitting video recordings in hopes of making it to the semi-finals and a chance to show off their talents in Los Angeles. They represent the United States, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam. They come from the most prestigious conservatories and universities around the world and all are already accomplished pianists.

The competition is open to the public and will be live streamed on YouTube. Audience members will witness stunning performances from tomorrow's piano superstars. Competitors will be playing some of the world's most beautiful and compelling classical works for the piano at the only competition of this stature on the West Coast.

An international jury will consist of prominent musicians from Poland, France, Hungary, Italy and the United States.

The semi-finals take place Monday through Wednesday, March 21, 22 and 23. Finals are on Friday, March 25 and the winner's concert and reception is Saturday, March 26. Daily passes start at \$30. All tickets are available at <https://paderewskimusicsociety.org/> along with LMU Covid safety protocols that will be observed.

The competition is presented by the Paderewski Music Society in Los Angeles, a non-profit formed in 2008 by a group of prominent musicians. The society promotes classical music and the legacy of the great pianist, statesman and philanthropist Ignacy Jan Paderewski through concerts, master classes, publications and the International Piano Competition.