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## A New Stage for Rising Piano Stars

*Michigan State University College of Music to hold inaugural piano competition.*

**EAST LANSING, Mich.** – The MSU College of Music is excited to announce the inaugural **Ralph Votapek International Young Artist Piano Competition**, to be held **August 14-17, 2025**. Named in honor of renowned pianist and MSU faculty emeritus Ralph Votapek, this prestigious event will bring together exceptional national and international young pianists to compete for \$10,000 in prizes and scholarships.

Open to **pianists aged 14-18**, the competition will bring 10 semifinalists to MSU's campus to perform in the Music Building's acclaimed Cook Recital Hall. Over four days, participants will engage in live performances, masterclasses, and opportunities to explore the College of Music and its state-of-the-art facilities, including the Billman Music Pavilion.

A distinguished jury comprising MSU piano faculty will oversee all rounds of the competition. Semifinalists will perform on August 15, with finalists competing for top prizes on August 17 in a special concert open to the public. The program includes awards for performances of Classical and Romantic works, audience favorites, and more.

"We are thrilled to launch the Ralph Votapek International Young Artist Piano Competition as an exciting new opportunity to celebrate and nurture young pianists," said [Deborah Moriarty](#), MSU professor of piano, and chair of the Keyboard Area. "This inaugural event allows us to share the vibrant musical community at MSU while honoring Ralph Votapek's legacy of artistry and mentoring. We look forward to welcoming these talented musicians to our campus and witnessing their inspiring performances."

Applications are now open, with a **submission deadline of April 15, 2025**. Prospective competitors should submit a video recording of at least three works, including a Classical sonata movement and a Romantic period piece, along with supporting documentation.

For detailed information about the competition and how to apply, prospective competitors should visit the [Ralph Votapek International Young Artist Piano Competition](#) page.

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