



The **Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts** is pleased to announce the **Second Annual Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival** to take place **August 14-16, 2014** at the Wilson Center, located within Mitchell Park in Brookfield, Wisconsin, just minutes west of Milwaukee.

This multi-genre competition featuring four different categories—**Rock/Blues, Fingerstyle, Jazz, and Classical**—was developed as a means to **showcase talented guitarists of all ages**.

The semi-final and final rounds of the competitions will take place Thursday, August 14, 2014 through Saturday, August 16, 2014 at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts located at 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield, WI.

Semi-final and final rounds will take place in front of a public audience and will be judged by a panel of renowned artists from each genre.

Initial round judging will take place via YouTube video OR DVD submission.

First place winners in each category will be awarded a \$3,000 cash prize. * Additional awards include a **\$1,500 second prize** and a **\$1,000 third prize** in each category. Supplementary non-cash prizes will be announced at a later date.

**** The First Place Winners in each category are not allowed to participate in future Wilson Center Guitar Competitions.***

Official Rules

Please read these Official Rules before entering the Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival. By participating in this competition, you agree to be bound by these official rules and represent that you satisfy all the eligibility requirements set forth herein.

Employees of the organizer, sponsors, and providers of any prize offered in this competition or any business or entity involved in the development, production, implementation, judging, administration, or fulfillment of this competition, and the immediate family members of any of the above (meaning spouses, parents, siblings, or children living in the same household) are not eligible.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A SKILL-BASED ARTISTIC COMPETITION.

Eligibility

The Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival is open to individuals of all ages.

Competition entrants are required to complete and submit entry documentation (as more fully described below) by the specified due date. Failure to do so may result in disqualification of the entry. All late, lost, or incomplete entries are not considered valid entries. Any form of entry, other than as specified in these rules (including but not limited to automated, copied, third-party, or mechanically reproduced entries) is prohibited and they will be disqualified. The organizer will be collecting personal data about participants when they register to enter the competition. By participating in the competition, entrants agree to all terms and conditions. By entering you agree to be bound by these official rules and decisions of the judges, which will be final and binding in all respects.

The Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival is open to all non-professional guitarists of all nationalities. A candidate may not be a professional guitarist and may not be signed to any labels and/or management. **A professional guitarist is defined as a person who makes a full-time career from guitar related work. Examples of this are teaching guitar lessons (i.e. 30 – 60 students per week), touring full-time with a band, performing session work full-time (i.e. recordings, television, film, commercials, pit orchestras, etc.). If a guitarist only teaches a small number of students, and/or plays non-regular jobs, they would not necessarily be considered a professional guitarist. The qualifications of a non-professional guitarist will ultimately be at the discretion of the Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival management.**

The Process

This Competition will take place in two phases:

1. Performance YouTube video OR DVD submission
2. Live performance semi-final and final rounds in Brookfield, WI

Performance Video Submission Dates and Times

The application/adjudication portion for the Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival begins February 5, 2014 at 12:00PM Central Standard Time ("CST") and the deadline for video submissions ends on May 31, 2014 at 11:59PM CST ("Submission Period"). The organizer's computer runs the official clock for the Competition and will solely determine the time by which an entry is received.

INTERNET ACCESS AND A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU MAY ENTER USING FREE INTERNET ACCESS, AVAILABLE AT LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND OTHER PLACES. FREE EMAIL ADDRESSES ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE (e.g., Gmail.com, Yahoo.com, Hotmail.com, etc.).

The initial competition video entry may be posted at YouTube.com, or the DVD can be mailed to the Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival Project Manager. Video entries will not be accepted in any other manner or media for the Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival.

How to Enter

Visit WilsonCenterGuitarCompetition.com, complete the registration form, send form with payment, and then submit your video through YouTube.com, or mail the DVD following the instructions below.

The registration fee is \$35. **This fee is non-refundable, without exception.** Please note that your registration will only be considered complete once payment has been made and accepted and the online registration form has been completed. Once your registration is complete, you will receive an email confirmation from the Project Manager. All applications must be received by midnight CST on May 31, 2014.

You may register in a maximum of two (2) different categories. Indicate the category (-ies) in which you wish to compete. Each submission must include a complete registration form and the \$35 fee.

Video and Live Performance Details

Contestants may bring and use any 3-, 4-, 6-, 7-, or 12- string acoustic or electric guitar. **THE ONLY PERSONAL PIECES OF GEAR A CONTESTANT MAY USE IS HIS OR HER GUITAR, PEDAL EFFECTS, CABLE, PICK, SLIDE AND STRAP. WIRELESS SYSTEMS, BASS GUITARS, AND LOOPING EFFECTS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT ANY STAGE OF THE COMPETITION.**

Music

- Only two pieces may be performed per video submission (a candidate may register in a maximum of two categories). See the Preliminary, Semi – final, and Final Round sections listed below.
- The pieces performed may be different for each of the two categories in which a candidate may choose to compete.
- Candidates selected for the Final round are required to perform two different contrasting pieces from those that were used for the Preliminary and/or Semi-final rounds.
- It is suggested that the candidate’s choice of music reflect what moves them most as a guitarist and should be something they can play with ease.
- Candidates may play a musical excerpt inspired by a piece they admire.
- Candidates may play a musical excerpt from one of their own compositions.
- **Preliminary Round** - The total amount of time for these two (2) pieces cannot exceed a maximum of 10 minutes in length.
 - **Rock/Blues Repertoire Requirement** –
 - Two (contrasting styles) solo selections of candidate’s choice
 - **Fingerstyle Repertoire Requirement** –
 - Two (contrasting styles) solo selections of candidate’s choice

- **Jazz Repertoire Requirement** –
 - Two (contrasting styles) solo selections of candidate’s choice
- **Classical Repertoire Requirement** –
 - Two (contrasting styles) solo selections of candidate’s choice
- **Semi-Final Round** - The total amount of time for these two (2) pieces cannot exceed a maximum of 10 minutes in length.
 - **Rock/Blues Repertoire Requirement** –
 - “Frankenstein” by The Edgar Winter Group
 - Solo Selection of candidate’s choice
 - **Fingerstyle Repertoire Requirement** –
 - “Ragamuffin” by Michael Hedges
 - Solo selection of candidate’s choice
 - **Jazz Repertoire Requirement** –
 - “Moose the Mooch” by Charlie Parker
 - One solo selection of candidate’s choice
 - **Classical Repertoire Requirement** –
 - “Madrornos” by Federico Moreno Torroba
 - Solo selection of candidate’s choice
- **Final Round** – The total amount of time for these two (2) pieces cannot exceed a maximum of 15 minutes in length.
 - **Rock/Blues Repertoire Requirement** –
 - Two (contrasting styles) solo selections of candidate’s choice
 - **Fingerstyle Repertoire Requirement** –
 - Two (contrasting styles) solo selections of candidate’s choice
 - **Jazz Repertoire Requirement** –
 - Two (contrasting styles) solo selections of candidate’s choice
 - **Classical Repertoire Requirement** –
 - Two (contrasting styles) solo selections of candidate’s choice

Time limit

Candidates must ensure the time they take to perform their piece does not exceed the time limit allowed. Candidates will be timed from the moment their music begins until both pieces are completed. If the performance exceeds the time limit, then video submissions will be disqualified and live performances will be stopped.

YouTube.com Video Submission Instructions

If a candidate chooses to submit their video via YouTube.com, they must select "Public" or "Unlisted" in the privacy settings found under the Broadcasting and Sharing Options section. If the candidate selects "Private" their submission will be invalid. The candidate must provide the link to their video submission on the application form. For more information on posting videos we recommend exploring the "Help" section found on the YouTube.com homepage.

The candidate’s YouTube.com video postings *must* be titled as follows: WC Guitar Candidate’s name. For instance: WC Guitar John Smith.

Note that there is a space after WC and before Guitar. Note that WC is capitalized. After the word Guitar, candidates must leave one space before their first name, and one space before their last name.

Note that there are no underlines or underscores where spaces occur. When video titling instructions are not followed, entries can be difficult to find. If a candidate's entry strays from these titling instructions, candidates risk being disqualified.

DVD Video Submission Instructions

If a candidate chooses to mail in a DVD Video Submission, please mail it to the address below.

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts
Attention: Guitar Competition & Festival Project Manager
19805 W. Capitol Drive
Brookfield, WI 53045

Please list the titles and composers of both song choices on the DVD.

Video Submission Content Instructions

While we advise all candidates to create the best quality entry possible, both regarding the audio and the video, it need not be at a professional level production value.

The video may be shot in any location (home, school, recital hall, etc.) though a more acoustically flattering room is desirable. Candidates should dress appropriately, as they would for a recital or audition. The video must clearly show the candidate's face, hands, and guitar. A stationary camera position is acceptable, with no zooming, panning, etc. **Any foul language, offensive gestures, etc. will result in automatic disqualification.**

Candidates are required to introduce themselves and their selections on the video entry. The spoken portion of the video entry must be limited to the following:

"My name is (state name here as it appears on the entry form). This is a (state the style of the pieces being performed – blues/rock, classical, jazz, or fingerstyle) performance for the 2014 Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival. The pieces I am performing are (state the names of the pieces and composers)."

Candidates may not say anything more than what is listed in the above statement in their video entry about the Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival. Those departing from this stated direction may be disqualified.

Video editing during a song is not allowed. The only editing allowed in the audition video is the insertion of an introduction, if necessary, and the editing together of two required songs.

Adjudication

All candidates will be judged by a panel of three independent and credible judges on the following criteria, TECHNIQUE, MUSICAL INTERPRETATION, and OVERALL ARTISTRY. Video submissions will be judged by June 15, 2014. Semi-finalists will be notified, and invited to participate in the Semi – final and Final rounds in Brookfield, WI on August 15-16, 2014. Only those candidates who are selected for the semi-finals will be notified.

Notification

Notification to all semi-finalists shall consist of an email to the address listed on the Registration Form, as well as posted online at <http://www.WilsonCenterGuitarCompetition.com> by June 17, 2014 at 5:00PM CST. By entering this competition, you agree that the notification methods stated herein are sufficient to give you notice in the event that you are chosen. IF ANY SEMI-FINALIST FAILS TO RESPOND BY AGREEING IN PERSON OR VIA EMAIL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT LEVEL OF THE COMPETITION WITHIN TWO (2) DAYS OF NOTIFICATION OR DOES NOT APPEAR AT THE NEXT LEVEL OF THE COMPETITION, THEN THAT CANDIDATE FORFEITS HIS OR HER RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THIS COMPETITION. Any runners-up will be notified via email within two (2) business days of the day that any candidate fails to respond or declines the invitation to compete in the next level of competition. If a semi-finalist declines the invitation to compete, then the candidate who received the next-highest final score in the video submission will be invited to compete.

Travel & Arrival

Candidates are responsible for their own travel, hotel accommodations, and expenses for the Semi – final and Final round stages of the competition in Brookfield, WI. All semi-finalist contestants MUST register at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts IN PERSON between 5:00PM-8:00PM CST on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014 OR 7:00AM-9:00AM CST on THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the live competition.

Technical Details for the Live Semi-final and Final Rounds

- For electric guitars, a maximum of three effects (pedals) will be allowed. Also, participants will have the choice of using their own amplifier or one provided by the Organizer.
- For classical and acoustic guitars, amplification will be done through the use of a microphone or a direct hook-up (DI) to the console (available on site).
- The effects and amplifiers supplied by the participants must be handed over to the Organizer upon arrival with the controls adjusted.
- For electric guitar effects, the pedals should already be fastened and hooked up to a pedal board.
- Guitars must be tuned before going on stage.

Punctuality

Candidates must be present in the performance hall at the beginning of their performance time according to their pre-assigned rehearsal time.

Other

- Candidates must bring their own guitar(s) for their performances and remain solely responsible for their instruments.
- Any candidate who fails to abide by the Contest Rules may be disqualified.
- Any registration form found to contain false or inaccurate information may result in the candidate's disqualification.
- The Organizer reserves the exclusive right to record, photograph or disseminate any and all stages in the competition in any manner whatsoever.

Participation in the Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival implies the full and clear adherence to these rules, the waiver of all rights and recourse in respect of the submission procedures, their

results and the awarding of prizes, and in respect of any physical or material damage sustained by the candidate either during the performances or when travelling to said performances.