



2025 ISB Double Bass Competition

To be held at the Florida State University College of Music
Tallahassee, Florida USA

Orchestra Division – Scott Haigh, Chair

Monday, June 2, 2025

Winners will be announced the evening of June 2, 2025 in a ceremony preceding the evening concert.

PRIZES:

- First place is an expenses-paid week with The Houston Symphony
- The Scott Haigh Prize is \$2,500, sponsored by the Unified Retirement Planning Group
- Third place is \$1,000

ELIGIBILITY:

- The competition is open to bassists who are aged at least 19 and have not yet reached the age of 31 on the first day of the competition (June 2, 2025).
- Applicants must be current ISB members at the time of online application. If you are not a current member you can join at <https://www.isbworldoffice.com/join.asp>. If you are unable to join with a credit card, contact office@isbworldoffice.com for instructions.
- Applicants must not have previously won first prize in the ISB Orchestral Competition.
- **Must not** be or have previously been a member of an ICSOM member orchestra. International applicants must not have previously held a full-time position with a symphony orchestra, radio orchestra, or an opera company. Additionally, applicants may not be members of an ICSOM member orchestra, or hold a full-time position with a symphony orchestra, radio orchestra, or an opera company at the time of the semi-final round of the competition.
- Competitors must play in orchestra tuning for all rounds of the competition.

DEADLINE:

Must submit online application by 11:59 PM Central Time, Saturday, March 15, 2025 for the Preliminary Round.

PRELIMINARY ROUND RULES:

Preliminary Round repertoire -

- One movement of unaccompanied Bach (no repeats)
- Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, 3rd movement from beginning to 5 after [A], and Trio to 23 after [B]
- Mozart: Symphony No. 35, 1st movement, mms. 13-48
- Brahms: Symphony No. 1, 2nd movement, mms. 46-61
- R. Strauss: *Ein Heldenleben*, from [#9] to 1 after [11]

Applicants for the Orchestra Division are required to submit required preliminary round high-quality digital audio recordings using the Acceptd platform. Entry fee is \$60.

- A separate audio file (no video) for each preliminary round piece, identified by the name of the piece and not including the competitor's name.
- Record each individual audio file in a single take, with no edits or digital processing.
- MP3 files are preferred, MP4 or .WAV files accepted.
- Either "live" or "studio" recordings are acceptable. Please remove any time stamp.
- Applicants must submit a resume with the online application that includes a chronological list of all private teachers, education, honors and awards.

SEMI-FINAL & FINAL ROUND RULES:

Semi-Final Round repertoire for **SEMI-FINAL** and **FINAL** rounds will be selected by the judges from the following: **one movement of unaccompanied Bach, the first movement of a standard bass concerto** and **excerpts** from the following works:

- Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, 2nd movement and 3rd movement
- Beethoven: Symphony No. 9, 4th movement
- Brahms: Symphony No. 2, 1st movement and 4th movement
- Mozart: Symphony No. 39, 1st movement and 4th movement
- Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 ("Italian"), 1st movement and 4th movement
- R. Strauss: *Ein Heldenleben*
- I. Stravinsky: *Pulcinella Suite mvt. VII (solo)*

Applicants advancing to the in-person semi-final round will be notified by April 15, 2025.

- Semi-Final and Final rounds will be held behind a screen.
- Semi-Finalists will be offered a discounted registration rate to attend the 2025 ISB convention that follows the competition, June 2-7, 2025 at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA.
- Formal attire is not required. Contestants should dress neatly (appropriate for a masterclass setting) but comfortably.
- The performance order for semi-finalists and finalists will be determined randomly.
Contestants will be notified of their performance order for the semi-final round by May 2, 2025. Final Round performance order will be determined after the semi-final round on June 2, 2025.