

# Kaleidoscope 2019 Instrumental and Vocal Competition

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: Are instrumentalists competing against vocalists?*

A: No. We have two categories for this competition—vocalists will compete against vocalists and instrumentalists will compete against instrumentalists. All voice types and instruments are considered equally.

*Q: When is the deadline for applying?*

A: February 1, 2019

*Q: How do I apply?*

A: Please upload a video recording of your repertoire to YouTube or Vimeo, submit our online application form (including the link to your video), and submit the \$30 application fee. Your video may be listed as public or private.

*Q: What music can I apply with as an instrumentalist?*

A: Any piece for soloist and orchestra is allowed.

*Q: What music can I apply with as a vocalist?*

A: In addition to concert works and song cycles for voice and orchestra (Strauss Four Last Songs, Mahler Kindertotenlieder, etc.), we are also happy to consider selections of operatic repertoire. If you choose to submit operatic repertoire, you should submit approximately 15-30 minutes worth of contrasting arias. Arias can be from any composer, any language, and any time-period. Submitting multiple selections from the same composer, language, or time-period is also fine.

*Q: Are there age or nationality requirements to apply?*

A: No. Performers of any age and nationality are welcome to apply.

*Q: How many people will you select as winners?*

A: 3 vocalists and 3 instrumentalists will each be chosen as winners of our 2019 competition. Each of the 6 competition winners will be offered a \$5,000 prize and performances with us in our 6th season (2019-2020).

*Q: Will you be offering a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize to the winners of each category?*

A: No, each person will be considered an equal winner of our 2019 competition.

*Q: How many people will you select as finalists of this competition?*

A: 6 instrumentalists and 6 vocalists will be invited to compete in our final round in Los Angeles on the weekend of May 4 & 5 2019, performing their repertoire with piano accompaniment in a concert open to the public and streamed live.

*Q: Do I need accompaniment for my video submission?*

A: No, accompaniment is optional. If you would like to send a video of a live performance with piano or orchestra, that is also fine. If you are invited to our final round in Los Angeles, you will be required to perform your piece with piano accompaniment and provide a score. A pianist and rehearsal time will be provided.

*Q: How recent should my recording be?*

A: That is up to you. We recommend you send the recording that you are most happy to share, whenever it was made.

*Q: Does the music I apply with via video need to be the same music I perform in person if I am invited to the final round?*

A: Yes.

*Q: Is memorization required?*

A: No.

*Q: Do you arrange housing and cover travel costs for finalists?*

A: Yes, performers selected for the final round will be reimbursed for round-trip air travel to Los Angeles from their city of residence (anywhere in the world) and offered housing with host families leading up to the final round. If you are under age 18, we will also cover travel costs for a family member to accompany you. Winners of the competition will also have travel reimbursed and receive housing leading up to their performances with us in our 2019-2020 season (dates to be determined).

*Q: Can I submit more than one application?*

A: Yes, you may submit multiple applications with different repertoire, but there is a separate \$30 fee for each application. You also will need to submit a separate online application form for each piece (or selection of repertoire for singers) you wish to submit. For instance, if you wish to submit both a Mozart Piano Concerto and the Ligeti Piano Concerto, or two or more applications on different instruments, that's fine. For singers, a selection of approximately 15-30 minutes of operatic repertoire is considered one application, and that could be sent in addition to an application with a piece for voice and orchestra (Strauss Four Last Songs, etc.).

*Q: How do I pay the application fee?*

A: Please use the link on our website which allows you to pay the application fee securely via PayPal using a credit card. The email address associated with our PayPal account is: [kaleidoscopechamberorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:kaleidoscopechamberorchestra@gmail.com)

*Q: After I apply, how and when will I receive confirmation of my application?*

A: After you submit your application fee, you should automatically receive a receipt from PayPal. In the week after our deadline, you will receive an additional email confirmation from us. We will contact you if we have any questions or have issues accessing your video and please make sure it stays uploaded until after we announce the results.

*Q: When and how will results be announced?*

A: All applicants will be notified via email in late March 2019 if they have advanced or not to our final round. We will announce finalists publicly in April 2019. To follow us on social media, please go to:

[www.facebook.com/kaleidoscope.chamber.orchestra/](http://www.facebook.com/kaleidoscope.chamber.orchestra/)

[www.instagram.com/kco\\_music/](http://www.instagram.com/kco_music/)

[https://twitter.com/kco\\_music](https://twitter.com/kco_music)

*Q: Do I need to hire a recording engineer to make my video?*

A: No, the most important thing is the quality accurately represents your best playing. Recording your video at home with an iPhone or computer would be fine as long as the sound quality is good. The audio quality is much more important than the video quality, but the video should also show you clearly.

*Q: I'm submitting a concerto/piece in several movements. Do all movements need to be recorded in one continuous take?*

A: No. It is fine to stop the recording between movements (or longer sections in a one-movement piece) and edit them together into one video. If you edit together longer sections/movements (or send a separate video link for each movement), they should all be recorded on the same day/location. Whether you send your recording in parts or one video, you should submit a complete piece (all movements).

*Q: Do I need to count multi-measure rests?*

A: If there are long sections without the solo part, please move on to the next section as soon as you're comfortable. If you are performing with accompaniment, cuts in longer tutti sections are optional.

*Q: Do you allow submissions by duos, trios, etc. (Beethoven Triple Concerto, Mahler Das Leid von der Erde, etc.)?*

A: No, only repertoire for one soloist and orchestra will be considered.

*Q: I want to apply with a contemporary piece that you might not know. Is that ok? Do I need to send a copy of the score?*

A: Yes, we have performed many premieres and welcome applying with newer pieces. If we feel unable to fully consider your application without a copy of the score, we will contact you. Please also make sure your piece has a piano reduction available, in case you are invited to our final round.

*Q: With such an open competition, how will you decide which performers to select?*

A: The decisions for any competition are inherently subjective and the judges may not all agree. However, we are searching for artists that have something very special to share and are unafraid of taking risks.

*Q: What size is Kaleidoscope and what music have you performed previously?*

A: The size of our ensemble is very flexible depending on programming and we have performed everything from small chamber works to large symphonies. The programs for our current and past seasons are listed on our webpage at:

[www.kco.la/concerts/](http://www.kco.la/concerts/)

*Q: Do you have recordings of any of your past performances? Will my performance be recorded?*

A: Yes, the concerts with musicians selected to perform with us in our 2019-2020 season will be professionally audio and video recorded. Live recordings from most of our past performances are available on our YouTube page:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCjXKRMNcjZt6J1mkadBmtyw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjXKRMNcjZt6J1mkadBmtyw)

*Q: What is your rehearsal process like?*

A: Kaleidoscope is a conductorless orchestra and our rehearsal process is very democratic and collaborative, like chamber music. We generally rehearse the week leading up to concerts. Because there is no conductor, soloists can communicate directly with all the musicians in the orchestra, working together to find a shared interpretation.

*Q: Where does the money go that's raised from application fees?*

A: Kaleidoscope is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and the money raised goes into programming costs like paying musicians, venue rentals, insurance, renting percussion instruments, etc. Over 75% of the concerts we perform each season are free performances at schools, hospitals, homeless shelters, and most of our public concerts are donation based. Other venues we have performed at include Walt Disney Concert Hall, Rothenberg Hall at The Huntington Museum, and Zipper Hall at the Colburn School.

*Q: I would love to apply, but \$30 is a financial hardship for me. Will you consider waiving the fee?*

A: We have intentionally kept the application fee low to not be a hardship for most people, but we understand everyone is in a different position. If you have special circumstances that will make paying the fee a hardship, please let us know and we will be happy to waive the application fee.

*Q: Who will be judging the applications?*

A: We have an artistic team made up of musicians who perform regularly with Kaleidoscope and work together to decide programming and other major artistic decisions.

*Q: I just heard about your competition but the deadline passed recently. Can I still Apply?*

A: We strongly encourage everyone to apply before the deadline but if you have issues or need a little more time, please let us know and we may consider slightly late applications on a case-by-case basis.

*Q: I have other questions not mentioned here. How do I get in touch?*

A: The best way to reach us is via email at:  
[contact@kco.la](mailto:contact@kco.la)