**Piano Festival 2014**

**Festival Information**

**Purpose of the Festival**

 The Albion College Piano Festival began in the fall of 2008. It was inspired by the memory of Vera Reed, an Albion resident and piano teacher who taught into her nineties and played even later in her life. While there is a competition element, and students can compete for **cash prizes**, it is our hope that students will discover this festival to be more about performing, meeting and hearing other students. In other words, we designed this festival as first and foremost a supportive experience for pre-college pianists at all levels of experience.

To make this festival to be accessible for young students and piano ensembles, we offer the following categories:

 Early Beginner

 Late Beginner

 Early Intermediate

 Intermediate

 Late Intermediate

 Advanced

Ensemble (2 Piano Concerto/Piano Duo/Piano Four-Hands)

Each student receives with their entry fee: a professional recording of their competition performance on one of two wonderful German Blüthner concert grand pianos, a certificate, a t-shirt and tote bag, the chance to take a private piano lesson with members of the Albion College piano faculty, and option to perform in a master class on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students may participate in any or all festival offerings, including private lessons, master class, or competition. The multitude of opportunities for young pianists makes our festival highly unique compared to other competitions around the region.

Ultimately, this is a festival celebrating the piano, the study and teaching of the piano, and music as an essential part of education.

**Festival Dates and Registration**

Festival dates: **Wednesday, Nov. 5** through **Sunday, Nov. 9**

Registration deadline: **October 21, 2014**.

Festival location: Albion College Department of Music, Goodrich Chapel (located at the intersection of Oswego and Michigan Streets).

Eligibility: All elementary, junior-high/middle school, high school aged students.

Fees: Registration fee is $40 for the solo competition, and $80 for any of the 2-piano concerto/piano four-hand, piano duo competition. Fee includes a light breakfast, sweatshirt, certificate, and a performance recording of the competition. It also includes a private lesson with Albion College Piano Faculty on a first-come first-serve basis as well as the potential to participate in a masterclass.

Students wishing to perform in a master class or lesson for their category will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. Private lessons with Albion Piano faculty will occur during the competition (lesson sign-up will take place at the registration check-in desk). In order to accommodate guests with long drives, we have tried to make the Saturday schedule roughly a half-day time period. Should any students desire to have lessons, they can happen on Friday afternoon, or Saturday evening if the students are staying, or on Sunday morning.

Winners of each division will also be asked to play in a winners’ concert immediately following their division. This gives selected students a chance to receive a second recording of their performance.

**Memory is encouraged for the competition, but not required and will not be held against the performer.** Students should bring up to two selections of contrasting styles for the competition. We do our best to allow each student time to perform all of his/her music, so they will have a complete performance on their recording. Students are encouraged to bring other pieces for a lesson and/or master class that are “in progress” or not yet in a polished, ready-to-perform state. For longer pieces, they can bring an excerpt rather than an entire finished work. Please bring scores of your selections for the judges.

Cash prizes will be awarded for each division of the competition.

We suggest you place your student in the appropriate playing level, and not categorize solely by age or grade.

If you are not sure what level to register your student, here is a general guide:

Early Beginner category: 1st year of study / 1st or 2nd in method book series

Late Beginner: 3rd book or above in method book series

Early Intermediate: a student perhaps finishing a beginning method or Celebration Series Introductory through levels 2-3 (as an example).

Intermediate: Celebration Series Levels 3-7 (an example).

Late Intermediate: Celebration Series Levels 7-8

Advanced: Celebration Series levels 9-10 approximately, preparing for a senior recital or MTNA or a college audition.

**Schedule of Events**

Masterclass times are subject to change, and may begin earlier than indicated. All performances take place in Goodrich Chapel and are free and open to the public.

**Wednesday, November 5, 2014**

7:30 pm Recital by guest artist Edmund Battersby (Indiana University)

**Thursday, November 6, 2014**

7:30 pm Recital by guest artist Kevin Chance (University of Alabama)

**Friday Afternoon, November 7, 2014**

4:30 pm Beginning Category check-in

5:00 **Early / Late Beginning and Ensemble Competition**

7:30 Winners announcement and Concert for all above divisions

8:00 Masterclass

**Saturday, November 8, 2014**

7:00 am Early Intermediate category Check-in

7:45 **Early Intermediate Competition**

9:30 Winners’ Announcement and Concert

10:00 Masterclass

10:30 **Intermediate Competition**

12:00 pm Lunch break

1:00 **Intermediate Competition** continued

2:45 Winners’ Announcement and Concert

3:00 Masterclass

4:00 **Late Intermediate Competition**

7:00 Winners’Announcement and Concert

7:30 Masterclass

**Sunday, November 9, 2014**

8:00 am Advanced Check-In

8:30 **Advanced competition**

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 **Advanced Competition** continued

5:00 Winners’ Announcement and Concert

5:45 Masterclass

**Overnight Accommodations**

For teachers, parents, and students wishing to stay in Albion for the entire weekend there is a very beautiful Bed and Breakfast in town:

* Albion Heritage Inn Bed and Breakfast:

www.albionheritage.com

517-629-3550

* Bellemont Manor

(Albion College guest house)

517-629-0318

* Palmer House Inn Bed & Breakfast

www.palmerhouseinnbnb.com

517-629-0001

There are additional hotels and motels nearby. Please contact Lisa Reed in the Music Department at 517-629-0481. For other questions, please contact:

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**Additional Notes**

Albion College reserves the right to place a student in a different division if repertoire is extremely out of place for their category. Also, all published times for competition categories are APPROXIMATE. You will be notified by EMAIL about your performance time approximately one week prior to the competition.

We are grateful to James Reeder Pianos, Inc. of Lansing, MI for furnishing us with two concert grand Blüthner pianos, as well as his recent rebuilding of the Albion College concert grand Steinway piano.

If you have more questions, contact us online:

Web: [www.albion.edu/music](http://www.albion.edu/music)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AlbionCollegeMusic](http://www.facebook.com/AlbionCollegeMusic)

Twitter: @AlbionMusic