



CHURAIRAT ABRSM

Piano Competition 2026

To enhance the musical potential and encourage artistic expression of ABRSM examination candidates and the general public, Churairat Music School, the official ABRSM representative in Thailand, proudly organizes the CHURAIRAT ABRSM Piano Competition 2026.

Important Notes Regarding This Competition

- This competition will be held on a professional stage, with all rounds performed before a panel of judges and a live audience.
- For Prep & Initial and Diplomas Categories will consist of only one round, and judging will take place after the performances are completed.
- For Categories A, B, C, and D, each participant must prepare 4 pieces: 2 for the preliminary round, and 2 for the final round. (One piece may be repeated from the preliminary round.)
- Participants may enter up to two categories.
- Participants who received 1st, 2nd, or 3rd prize in the 2025 competition are eligible to re-enter the same category this year.
- Participants must clearly state the total duration of the selected pieces for each round on the application form.

Note:

- * Applications may close before the stated deadline if the maximum number of participants is reached.
- ** The organizers reserve the right to amend any rules or regulations as necessary to ensure the suitability and integrity of the event.

Competition Details

1. Competition Categories:

Applicants will be divided into six categories based on their ABRSM grade and age (as of 20 October 2026)

- **Prep & Initial Category** • Age limit – 8 years (Limited to 50 participants, each teacher may enter up to 5 students in the competition)
- **Category A (Grades 1–2)** • Age limit : 10 years
- **Category B (Grades 3–4)** • Age limit : 12 years
- **Category C (Grades 5–6)** • Age limit : 15 years
- **Category D (Grades 7–8)** • Age limit : 18 years
- **Diplomas Category (Above Grade 8)** • Age limit : 25 years

2. Competition Format

○ Prep & Initial Category

The Prep & Initial category consists of only one round, and judging will take place after the performances are completed. Participants must perform two pieces. The competition program allows participants to select their own pieces and arrange the performance order as they deem appropriate.

○ Categories A, B, C, and D

Each participant must prepare a total of 4 pieces for the competition, which will be divided into two rounds: the Preliminary Round and the Final Round. Two pieces will be performed in each round. Participants who pass the preliminary round will be eligible to compete in the final round. In the final round, participants may repeat one piece from the preliminary round or choose two entirely new pieces. Participants may arrange the performance order of their pieces at their own discretion; however, the total performance time for each round must not exceed the specified time limit.

○ For Diplomas Category

The Diplomas Category consists of only one round, and judging will take place after the performances are completed. Participants may freely select and arrange the order of their repertoire for performance. There is no restriction on the number of pieces, but the total duration of the program must not exceed 10 minutes.

3. Competition Repertoire Requirements by Category

○ Prep & Initial Category • Age limit : 8 years

Prep Level

Candidates must select solo piano pieces only from the Prep Test • Syllabus 2025 & 2026 from the following four books:

- ABRSM Piano Prep Test from 2025
- ABRSM Piano Star 1
- ABRSM Piano Star 2
- ABRSM Piano Star: Five-Finger Tunes

Initial Level

Select a piece for solo piano only from ABRSM Piano Exam Pieces, Initial Grade • Syllabus 2025 & 2026.

○ Category A (Grade 1-2) • Age limit : 10 years

1. Choose 3 pieces from Grade 1 or 2 exam repertoire in Lists A, B, and C from the ABRSM Piano Syllabus 2025&2026.

All 3 pieces must be from the same Grade, included in the syllabus, and from different lists.

2. Choose 1 Own-Choice Piece from any repertoire (can be a repeat from the above).

- **Preliminary Round:** Perform 2 pieces (total time not exceeding 3 minutes)
- **Final Round:** Perform 2 pieces (total time not exceeding 3 minutes)

○ Category B (Grade 3–4) • Age limit : 12 years

1. Choose 3 pieces from Grade 3 or 4 exam repertoire in Lists A, B, and C from the ABRSM Piano Syllabus 2025&2026.

All 3 pieces must be from the same Grade, included in the syllabus, and from different lists.

2. Choose 1 Own-Choice Piece from any repertoire (can be a repeat from the above).

- **Preliminary Round:** Perform 2 pieces (total time not exceeding 4 minutes)
- **Final Round:** Perform 2 pieces (total time not exceeding 4 minutes)

○ Category C (Grade 5–6) • Age limit : 15 years

1. Choose 3 pieces from Grade 5 or 6 exam repertoire in Lists A, B, and C from the ABRSM Piano Syllabus 2025&2026.

All 3 pieces must be from the same Grade, included in the syllabus, and from different lists.

2. Choose 1 Own-Choice Piece from any repertoire (can be a repeat from the above).

- **Preliminary Round:** Perform 2 pieces (total time not exceeding 5 minutes)
- **Final Round:** Perform 2 pieces (total time not exceeding 5 minutes)

○ Category D (Grade 7–8) • Age limit : 18 years

1. Choose 3 pieces from Grade 7 or 8 exam repertoire in Lists A, B, and C from the ABRSM Piano Syllabus 2025&2026.

All 3 pieces must be from the same Grade, included in the syllabus, and from different lists.

2. Choose 1 Own-Choice Piece from any repertoire (can be a repeat from the above) (If the Own-Choice Piece is not listed in the ABRSM Piano Syllabus 2023&2024 or 2025&2026, it must not exceed 6 minutes in duration)

- **Preliminary Round:** Perform 2 pieces (no time limit)
- **Final Round:** Perform 2 pieces (no time limit)

○ Diplomas Category (Above Grade 8) • Age limit : 25 years

Repertoire may be selected from the “Diplomas ARSM, LRSM, FRSM Piano Repertoire Lists from 2024”

or from other diplomas-level pieces or equivalent repertoire from any examination board. The total duration of the program must not exceed 10 minutes.

4. Competition Rules and Regulations

Eligibility Rules for Participants

- Participants in each category must not exceed the specified age limit as of 20 October 2026.
- Each participant may enter up to two categories.
- Participants who received 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in the CHURAIRAT ABRSM PIANO COMPETITION 2025 may re-enter the same category this year.
- If a participant is unable to attend on the scheduled date and time, their registration will be considered forfeited, and no refunds will be issued under any circumstances.
- All participants will receive a certificate of participation on the competition day.

Registration Rules

- All registration materials must be completed and submitted by 15 September 2026.
- After this date, no changes may be made to the repertoire or performance order listed in the application form.
- If a participant selects a piece from an Alternative List, a copy of the sheet music must be submitted with the application.
- Applicants are required to clearly specify in the application form whether they intend to use a pedal extender or a child footrest.
- Please note that the competition will involve photography and video recording for promotional purposes for this and future events. All participants, companions, and attendees must give consent for their images and videos to be recorded and used by the organizers in marketing and promotional materials.

Competition Rules

- All pieces must be performed from memory.
- For Prep & Initial Category and Categories A, B, C, D, repeat signs are generally not required unless specifically marked (e.g., D.C. al Fine) or stated in the syllabus.
- For the Diplomas Category, all repeats may be followed as indicated in the score.
- If a participant is unable to complete their performance due to mistakes or interruptions, the jury reserves the right to disqualify or stop the performance.
- If the performance exceeds the allowed time, only the portion within the time limit will be considered for scoring.
- For Categories A, B, C, D, participants must choose 3 core pieces from the ABRSM Piano Syllabus 2025&2026, all from the same grade and different lists (A, B, C), plus 1 Own-Choice Piece.
- The Own-Choice Piece may be selected freely (including a duplicate of one of the 3 core pieces).
- For Categories A, B, and C, the combined duration of the two pieces per round must not exceed the time limit, and unused time may not be carried over to the next round.
- For Category D, if the Own-Choice piece is not listed in the ABRSM syllabus for Grade 7 or 8, it must not exceed 6 minutes.
- There is no time limit for Category D performances in either round.
- For the Diplomas Category, the total performance time must not exceed 10 minutes.
- The performance order will be determined by a draw conducted by the organizers.
- The final order will be announced approximately one month before the competition.
- The competition date and performance order are final and cannot be changed.

5. Judging Criteria

The judging panel is composed of highly qualified and experienced professionals in the field of music.

Participants will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Accuracy
- Technical skills
- Musical expression
- Interpretation
- Balance of repertoire

All judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal. No written feedback will be provided.

6. Application Process

- **Google Forms** : Complete and submit your application via the designated Google Forms link
- **In person at Churairat Music School (Nawamin Road)**
- **Required documents**
 1. Completed application form
 2. One high-resolution digital photo (no school uniform)
 3. Proof of age
- **Payment of entry fee**
 - Prep & Initial Category : 4,200 THB
 - Category B : 4,800 THB
 - Category D : 5,400 THB
 - Category A : 4,500 THB
 - Category C : 5,100 THB
 - Diplomas Category : 6,200 THB

**You may use a Book Benefits code to receive a 300 THB discount on the registration fee.*
- **Payment details**, SCB Bank Account No. 077-284275-4 Account Name: Churairat Music Co., Ltd.
- **Submission deadline** : 15 September 2026

7. Competition Schedule & Venue

Preliminary Round : 20–22 October 2026

Final Round : 23 October 2026

Venue : Auditorium, 5th Floor, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC), Pathumwan

8. Awards

First Prize : Trophy and Certificate

Second Prize : Trophy and Certificate

Third Prize : Trophy and Certificate

Honorable Mention : Trophy and Certificate

Distinction Award : Medal and Certificate (for excellent finalists)

9. Trophies and Additional Certificates

- Certificate of Participation for all participants.
- Merit Award Certificate for participants who achieved a good performance standard but did not advance to the final round.
- Finalist Certificate for all participants who qualified for the final round.

- Trophy for teachers whose students won First Prize.
- Certificate for teachers whose students won First Prize.
- Certificate for teachers whose students won Second Prize.
- Certificate for teachers whose students won Third Prize.

- Certificate for teachers whose students advanced to the final round.
- Certificate for the teacher who had the highest number of students reaching the final round.