

## Central Florida Piano Competition Draws Talent

The exhilaration of public performance, the chance to showcase serious technique and artistry and the prospect of winning spectacular prizes will attract classical pianists from around the world to the inaugural Grand Bohemian Orlando International Piano Competition September 15-21 presented by the Florida International Piano Competition (FIPC).

"A competition of this caliber is a rarity for many cities and to have an event on this level is certain to place Central Florida on the international cultural map," says Ellen Hamilton, founder and CEO of FIPC. "The talent coming to this competition will amaze and inspire everyone."

Several years ago, Hamilton attended the Leeds International Pianoforte Competition, considered one of the top piano competitions in the world. She says that this life-changing experience inspired her to start the non-profit, FIPC

and launch its bi-annual competition. Pianists ranging in age from 18-32 and representing 16 countries – some are coming as far away as Italy, China and Russia – will be vying for the top spot.

Although the \$20,000 first-place prize is part of the incentive for their journey, many are also hoping to secure the performance engagements awarded to the top three winners. Those engagements include Carnegie Hall in New York and State Hermitage Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia, as well as several in Florida.

Pianist Laurent Boukobza will serve as the competition's artistic director. "His presence as a musician and his academic stature as Chair of Piano Studies at UCF proved to be the perfect combination," Hamilton says.

Performances will be at Tiedtke Concert Hall and the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre. For more details, call 407-645-2525 or visit [floridapiano.org](http://floridapiano.org).

