



August, 2016

Dear Teachers, Students, and Performing Pianists,

**YOU MUST READ ALL OF THIS INFORMATION IN ORDER TO APPLY.
PLEASE PRINT THIS LETTER FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

You are invited to join 500 of your pianist colleagues in three performances of **American Grands XXII** on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at 1 p.m., 4 p.m., or 7 p.m. at the Elgin Community College (ECC) Arts Center. Once again, we will present this music extravaganza on 12 new grand pianos from **Cordogan's Pianoland**, showcasing both classical and popular music in arrangements for multiple pianos. Colin Holman returns as conductor and Jon Mortensen as percussionist.

NEW THIS YEAR: Participation Fee

In order to ease the music distribution process and offset production costs, American Grands is charging a **\$20 per performer participation fee instead of charging individually for music** this year. You will be able to pay this fee online or in person with cash, credit, or check. Information on paying this fee will be included in Acceptance Letter sent in October. Please pay the participation fee before the music pick up dates (October 21 and 22).

Rehearsals & Performances

Although performances will be held in the ECC Arts Center's Blizzard Theatre, the first rehearsal takes place at Cordogan's Pianoland on Route 38 in Geneva, with the four remaining rehearsals taking place at the ECC Arts Center. It is mandatory that all performers attend all three rehearsals, but not for the full duration of each, as well as assigned performances. Performers may be required to play in two concerts. **NOTE: Performers in level 1A play at the 1 p.m. or 4 p.m. concerts.**

The rehearsal and performance schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, January 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cordogan's Pianoland. Early levels will be on this date.
- Sunday, January 8 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Cordogan's Pianoland. Later levels will be on this date.
- Tuesday, January 24 from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at ECC Arts Center
- Wednesday, January 25 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at ECC Arts Center
- Thursday, January 26 from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at ECC Arts Center
- Friday, January 27 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at ECC Arts Center
- *Performances:* Saturday, January 28 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m. at ECC Arts Center

You will be given a specific time for the rehearsal of your assigned piece(s) when you pick up your music. You will only attend two of the four rehearsals at ECC Arts Center.

Performance Level Guidelines

In order to clearly identify a performance level, please consult with your teacher about your level. Please note that performers do not necessarily advance to a new level every year. **DO NOT** place yourself or your student at a level in which they cannot perform competently. We will again provide a performance opportunity for very young students at the Early Elementary Level. Students must be at least six years old and reading on the musical staff.

Teachers: You must use this method below for your evaluation. No other method will be accepted.

| Level | Faber & Faber Piano Adventures |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Early Elementary (EE) | Primer |
| Elementary (E) | Level 1 |
| Late Elementary (LE) | Level 2A/2B |
| Early Intermediate (EI) | Level 3A/3B |
| Intermediate (I-4) | Level 4 |
| Intermediate (I-5) | Level 5 |
| Late Intermediate (LI) | Level 6 |
| Early Advanced (EA) | Level 6 + |
| Advanced/Teacher/Professional | Beyond Level 6 + |

How to Apply

- The application can be found online at elgin.edu/americangrands.
- Please be sure that all applications are filled out completely, correctly, and clearly.
- **All fields must be completed, including correct teacher information. Email is our primary form of contact with teachers so we need this information to be accurate. Please check with your teacher to make sure their information is correct.**
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Your name will appear on the poster as you enter it on the electronic application. **Be sure to use correct capitalization. (i.e. "John Doe" not "john doe")**
- You can check elgin.edu/americangrands for schedules and information after being accepted.

Application Deadline

All applications must be received by Sunday, September 18, 2016.

Acceptance & Music Pick-Up

Applicants who have been accepted **will be notified by email** by the second week of October.

Performers must pick up their music in the main lobby of the ECC Arts Center (located in Building H of Elgin Community College) on Friday, October 21, between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., or Saturday, October 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This will be your final opportunity to verify the correct spelling of your name for the poster.

Performer Expectations

Your commitment includes the following:

- Pay the \$20 participation fee.
- Pick up and prepare your music.
- Attend all rehearsals and performances.
- Arrive at rehearsals **20 minutes prior** to your designated time.
- Agree to allow Elgin Community College to document this performance for archival and not-for-profit promotional use and to release your name and photo for promotional purposes.

Performance Attire

- Girls: knee-length dresses or longer. **NO short dresses!** Lots of color! NO nail polish, please!
- Ladies: long or tea-length dresses. Lots of color! NO nail polish, please!
- Boys: black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, white shirt, and bow tie.
- Men: tuxedo or black suit with bow tie.

Ticket Information

Please wait to purchase tickets until you pick up your music packet on October 21 or 22.

Tickets prices are \$26 for adults and \$17 for children under 12 (applicable fees are included in this price).

Sincerely,

Larry Dieffenbach

Music Director, American Grands XXII

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[\(Click here to fill out an application\)](#)