

LOUISIANA INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION – TUESDAY

Though the weather may be keeping the coordinators on their toes, the Louisiana International Piano Competition is well under way. With one judge prevented from arriving until Tuesday morning, the first round got off to a late start. But now everything is running according to schedule. Even though the first day of the first round has been put to bed, no one is resting. Eleven performers will take their turn on the stage of the Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center Wednesday morning, playing for an impressive panel of judges led by chair Tamás Ungár of the United States.

Even the performers who took their turns Tuesday morning are loathe to give up any chance to prepare for the possibility of playing for the semifinal round Thursday. With stellar performances of classic composers: Bach, Chopin, Beethoven, Ravel and Debussy, great names in piano composition: Liszt, Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin and Scarlatti, the competition is stiff. Even some modern compositions like that of Lowell Liebermann, a name that might invite more than a few Google searches.

For now, 12 performers can breathe a little easier, but not for too long. Once all competitors finish performing, the judges will deliberate and reveal the 8 semifinalists Wednesday evening. Be sure to visit www.lacompetition.com for the results as they are announced. And stop by Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center to witness some truly astounding piano playing.

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