

Dear Yang Zhang,

Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that you are awarded **Third Place with Special Honours and Distinction Plus** at the Red Maple Keyboard Competition, Junior Category, 11 - 12 years old, for Edvard Grieg, Waltz.

Here are the comments from our judges:

Thank you for your performance! You demonstrated a good tempo and solid memorization throughout the piece. To take your performance to the next level, I recommend creating a clearer distinction between the melody and the accompaniment. Make sure the accompaniment remains light and supportive, allowing the melody to sing freely. At times, the left hand sounded a little heavy and occasionally overshadowed the melodic line. For the melody, try to explore a wider dynamic range and shape your phrases more intentionally. Identify the culmination point of each phrase and guide the melodic line toward it. Then allow the phrase to relax with a softer, smoother ending. This will help your phrasing sound more natural, expressive, and complete. I particularly enjoyed the softer sound and calmer character you introduced in the final section. Consider making this change in mood even more pronounced to better prepare the listener for the conclusion of the piece. Also, remember that a waltz is a dance. Try to bring more flexibility and buoyancy to the pulse, emphasizing the first beat of each measure while keeping the second and third beats lighter. This will enhance the characteristic waltz movement and dance-like quality of the music. Keep up the good work!

Please find your Certificate on the website. If you indicated that you have a teacher and/or an accompanist, their Certificates are also on the website. For your convenience all certificates are in PDF for printing and JPG for posting on social media. Please download the certificates within next two months.

We are thrilled to inform you that you are invited to perform at the Winners' Recital and the Award Ceremony that will be held at St. Andrew's Church at 73 Simcoe St., Toronto, Canada, on July 11th, 2026 (Saturday).

We will send more details regarding the registration, the exact dates, and the venue later. Please, always check your spam/junk email folder to do not miss any important information.

Please register for the recital at the following link by June 13th, 2026:

<https://www.pulsar-music.com/recitals>

Payments after the deadline will not be accepted due to the high volume of participants. Please note that the recital registration fees are not refundable and can not be substituted.

Please find your performance information below:

1. Edvard Grieg, Waltz (2 minutes 18 seconds) will be listed in the recital program as your performance repertoire. If you need to change your piece please contact us at info@pulsar-music.com no later than one month prior the event date. The repertoire change is available for an extra fee and the duration of the new piece must be no longer than the original piece duration.
2. If you need an official invitation letter from the Competition to apply for the visa, you may provide this letter.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Toronto! In addition, Pulsar Music is happy to invite all Winners' Recital and Award Ceremony participants, their teachers, and family members to join us at other social events after the recital date, such as a trip to Niagara Falls and the Toronto Aquarium.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ekaterina Paniukova, CEO of Pulsar Music

Red Maple Music Competition

Website: <https://www.pulsar-music.com/>

Email: info@pulsar-music.com

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