

Dear Julia Gentry,

Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that you are awarded **First Place with Special Honours and Distinction Plus** at the Royal Sound Keyboard Competition, Junior Category, 13 - 14 years old, for Frederic Chopin, Etudes Op. 10 No. 3 & 4.

Here are the comments from our judges:

*Thank you for your performance of these two beautiful etudes. Your playing is very expressive, and the quality of your sound is very good - well done! I'd like to share a few ideas you might experiment with as you continue to develop your interpretation. In Etude No. 3, your performance is full of passion, and you shape the phrases very logically, creating strong culmination points. This works especially well in the middle section. For the first and last sections, however, you might try a slightly "simpler" sound and phrasing flow. At times the rubato and frequent highlighting of intermediate points in the middle of the phrase (like pausing before third interval in measure 2 and 3, and similar) can make the main culmination and sense of forward direction a bit less clear. You could explore a calmer, more natural flow here, allowing the melodic line to move past those middle points and continue forward, so that the primary high point of each phrase feels more focused and inevitable. The middle section is very well done. Choosing a comfortable tempo was a good musical decision. As a next step, you can gradually experiment with increasing the tempo while still keeping your shoulders and elbows completely relaxed and free of tension. Etude No. 4 is well done as well. You handle the coordination between the hands with confidence, and it is clear that you are managing a very technically demanding piece. Good work! I'd like to offer a few ideas for this etude as well. You could try exploring even stronger dynamic contrasts. For example, making the subito changes more pronounced and adding even more sudden accents to the jumps (such as in measures 7-8 and similar spots) could bring extra excitement and maintain the dramatic goal in the structure. In measures 13-16 and similar passages, you are doing a nice job emphasizing the left hand and "saving energy" in the right hand. At the same time, try to keep the top voice in the right hand slightly more present, so that the melodic line continues to move forward and does not disappear completely. The same idea applies to measures 31-32: keep the accented top notes in the right hand (played with the pinky) clear and singing, so they remain audible within the texture. In measures 12 and 62, you might experiment with using a bit more pedal to add extra sparkle to the right-hand arpeggio. On the last page, you can start building a bigger culmination by using a deeper, more connected articulation in the right-hand chords in measures 66-70. At the moment they sound a little light and short; giving them more depth and forwardness will help the final build-up feel more powerful and convincing. Overall, this is a very good work. Thank you for sharing your performance, and looking forward to listening to more of your performances in the future!*

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 in Toronto, Canada, in Summer, 2026.

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 December 15th, 2025:

<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. Frederic Chopin, Etude Op. 10 No. 4 (2 minutes and 15 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](mailto: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

Royal Sound Music Competition

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

Email: [info@pulsar-music.com](mailto:info@pulsar-music.com)

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