



MINNESOTA
MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Handbook

2024-2025

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General Information

President's Letter

Members, Colleagues, and Friends of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association,

The Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA) is many things: a collection of members from all across the state, a rich array of educational programs for students, a network of studios, music schools and colleges, a subsidiary of Music Teachers National Association, a place to advocate for music and music education, and most importantly, a place for you.

The members of MMTA are primarily music teachers. But these teachers are found in all kinds of capacities, including those who teach from their home, in studios, in colleges and universities. These teachers teach individual lessons, group lessons, young children, adults, K-12, undergraduate and graduate students. Many MMTA members are also more than just teachers and some do not teach at all, including those who perform research, work in music and instrument sales, performers, and church musicians.

In this handbook, you will find programs and ways to be involved that will benefit you professionally and will benefit your students. To get started, browse the handbook and see what kinds of programs, committees, or forums might be of interest to you or your students. These programs include the annual piano contest, piano and theory syllabus, ensemble festival, music bridges, the annual convention, the teacher's duet competition, and many more. All committees are volunteer and open to any MMTA member who has an interest in the area – these committees include the committee of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), piano development, theory development, convention, and contest committee. To get involved, simply contact the respective program director to learn more. This handbook provides you with this information.

Whether you are a new member, or a returning member of many decades, know that we are always here to help. All questions are good questions, including “What is this?” Or “Who do I contact?” Or “When is the deadline?” Simply contact our office by phone (952-345-0629), by email (mmta@mnmusicteachers.com), or visit our website (www.mnmusicteachers.com).

In the end, we are so happy to have you here! Wishing you a wonderful year ahead with many opportunities to come.

Dr. Jake Fitzpatrick

President of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association

Mission Statement: Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)

The mission of MTNA is to advance the value of music study and music-making in society and to support the professionalism of music teachers.

The mission is accomplished by members who teach with competence, act with integrity, volunteer services to MTNA programs, provide professional support for colleagues and communities, and comply with all laws and regulations that impact the music teaching profession.

Mission Statement: Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA)

The mission of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association is to advance the profession of music teaching through education, certification, networking and advocacy.

MMTA is an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

MMTA Statement of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

We, the members of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA), affirm the Diversity Statement issued by our parent organization, the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

In Minnesota, we recognize that our organization has overrepresented certain peoples and musical styles while underrepresenting, overlooking, and/or forgetting others. MMTA is committed to adopting best practices of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in order to:

- Make well-informed decisions that include underrepresented populations;
- Educate and inform our members; and
- Actively implement these practices in our programs.

In our quest to continually educate ourselves about DEI, we pledge to:

- Celebrate and encourage creative expression wherever we find it, both in our shared heritage and as we change and grow.
- Strive to create pathways to student-centered outcomes in our educational programs and teaching studios.
- Center our leadership and decision-making processes on the voices of students, teachers, members, families, volunteers, staff, and communities.

MMTA has a standing DEI committee which acknowledges the evolving nature of this work and the above statement. We commit to:

- Regular meetings.
- Collaboration with community members.
- Prioritizing this work at our annual convention.
- Our own research and development.

Via these steps, action and change will occur within our organization for the betterment of all.

Adopted February 2022

MTNA Code of Ethics

The principles and aspirations found in the Code of ethics are not conditions of membership, but are goals and ideals that each MTNA member should strive to make an essential part of their professional commitment to students, to colleagues, and to society.

Commitment to Students

- The teacher shall conduct the relationship with students and families in a professional manner.
- The teacher shall respect the personal integrity and privacy of students unless the law requires disclosure.
- The teacher shall clearly communicate the expectations of the studio.
- The teacher shall encourage, guide, and develop the musical potential of each student.
- The teacher shall treat each student with dignity and respect, without discrimination of any kind.
- The teacher shall respect the student's right to obtain instruction from the teacher of [their] choice.

Commitment to Colleagues

- The teacher shall respect the reputation of colleagues and shall refrain from making false or malicious statements about colleagues.
- The teacher shall refrain from disclosing sensitive information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
- The teacher shall participate in the student's change of teachers with as much communication as possible between parties, while being sensitive to the privacy rights of the student and families.
- The teacher shall maintain a professional attitude and shall act with integrity with regard to colleagues in the profession.

Commitment to Society

- The teacher shall maintain the highest standard of professional conduct and personal integrity.
- The teacher shall accurately represent [their] professional qualifications.
- The teacher shall strive for continued growth in professional competencies.
- The teacher is encouraged to be a resource in the community.

Membership Information

Full Membership is open to any person actively engaged in the field of music. These members are members of both MMTA and MTNA. They are entitled to vote, hold office, apply for national certification, and enter students in events in both organizations. Membership year is July 1st-June 30th.

Senior Membership is open to persons age 70 or older who are engaged in any field of musical activity. Senior members receive a 25% discount on state dues.

Collegiate Membership is open to full-time college students currently involved in music study. Collegiate members are members of both MMTA and MTNA but may not vote, hold office, or apply for national certification. They may enter students in MMTA events, but not MTNA. Membership year is October 1st-September 30th.

Student Memberships are members of MMTA only and may not vote or hold office. They may enter students in MMTA events. Membership year is October 1st-September 30th.

Retired Membership is open to those who have been active members for at least 20 continuous years in MTNA, are age 65 or greater, and are essentially retired from teaching. A member must request this type of membership from MTNA. Retired members may vote but may not hold office at divisional/national levels, or enter students in MTNA or MMTA events. Membership year is July 1st-June 30th.

Patron and Studio Patron Membership is open to businesses and music schools/large studios. Patron members are members of MMTA only; however, individual teachers within the patron studio join both MMTA and MTNA. Membership year is July 1st-June 30th.

Getting Involved

There are many ways to get involved in MMTA:

Paid Opportunities

MMTA pays for the following kinds of involvement:

- Judging contests, exams, or festivals. To become an MMTA judge, contact the judge education coordinator.
- Serving as a site administrator. To become a site administrator, contact the program director.

Volunteer Opportunities

MMTA also seeks volunteers because volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization. There are many ways to volunteer:

- Become a member of the Board of Directors. To become a board member, contact the President.
- Help at an event by welcoming students or working the registration desk. To help at an event, contact the site administrator.
- Help the MMTA office with clerical work or other office needs. To help in the office, contact the office personnel.
- Join a committee. To join a committee, contact the chairperson. Committees include:
 - Committee of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Convention Committee
 - Theory Development Committee
 - Piano Syllabus Committee
 - Voice Syllabus Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Instrumental Syllabus Development Committee(s)

MTNA Information

Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM)

MTNA offers a certification program which is valid in all 50 states. It is renewable every year. The application process involves writing a philosophy of teaching, writing an analysis of specific teaching pieces, and submitting video files of the applicant teaching a student at various times throughout the preparation of a piece. For specific details and requirements, please go to www.mtnacertification.org.

To encourage members to become Nationally Certified Teachers of Music (NCTM), MMTA members who successfully complete the process may receive a \$100 rebate from MMTA (Available to up to 20 newly-certified members per year). This rebate is to defray the cost of the certification application. To apply for the rebate, please send proof of national certification to the MMTA Office.

Contact MMTA's National Certification Chair for more information about certification. (*See Handbook p. 48 for contact information*).

MTNA Competitions (Performance and Composition)

Purpose: The purpose of the Music Teachers National Association State Competitions are to provide educational experiences for students and teachers and to recognize exceptionally talented young artists and their teachers in their pursuit of musical excellence. (www.mtna.org) Students declared winners at the State Level move on to compete at the Divisional Level. Winners at the Divisional Level compete at the National Level.

Guidelines: More information can be found on the MTNA website:

<https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/MTNA/Engage/Competitions>

State Coordinator: Nancy Van Kampen ▪ (651) 315-2197 ▪ craigvk@aol.com

Registration and Deadline: September 11, 2024 (by 3:00 PM Central Standard Time). Register online at www.mtna.org.

Fees: In addition to the MTNA competition fee, an additional \$15 administrative fee must be paid to MMTA.

Locations:

- State: November 2, 2024, St. Olaf College
- Divisional: Video submission
- National: March 15-19, 2025, MTNA National Conference, Minneapolis MN

MMTA Foundation

Minnesota Music
Teachers Association



General Information

The MMTA Foundation offers Professional Development Grants, District/Local Association Grants, MMTA Foundation State Fellow Award, Travel Grants for Minnesota winners of MTNA Division Performance Competitions, and Monetary Awards for students who have demonstrated superior achievement in MTM Educational Exams. Additional achievement awards include the Young Artist Winner, Student Composition Winner, and Student of the Year. The MMTA Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3), tax-deductible organization. Donations may be made online at www.mnmusicteachers.com/donate-or-submit-payment-mmta-foundation or mailed to the MMTA Office.

Foundation Award Winners Recital

The Foundation celebrates the achievements of Young Artist Contest winners by hosting an annual winners' recital. Piano, Voice, and Instrumental winners are invited to participate in the recital which is held at the MMTA convention.

Student Awards

The Foundation celebrates the achievements of students who receive high scores on upper-level exams. Awards are mailed to the teacher, usually between December and July of the academic year. For a list of awards, visit www.mnmusicteachers.com/mmta-foundation.

Grants

The MMTA Foundation offers two opportunities for grants:

- The Robert P. Schmitt Professional Development Grant provides financial assistance for music teachers undertaking projects which enhance their professional development. Funding provided through a generous gift from Schmitt Music Company. Application deadline is **April 15th** of the current academic year.
- The District/Location Associate Grant provides assistance in funding educational programs at the district level. Application deadline is **July 1st** of the current academic year. Apply online at www.mnmusicteachers.com/mmta-foundation.

State Fellow

The MMTA Foundation State Fellow Award recognizes and honors music teachers and members (current and former) of MMTA for their outstanding, long-lasting, and inspiring contributions to music education in the state of Minnesota.

- A minimum of \$500 is needed for each nominee per year.
- Nominations open each membership year from July 1 until the following May 1.
- The MMTA State Fellow may be nominated by anyone and will be recognized during the annual MMTA Convention at the Foundation Award Winners Recital.
- Funds collected will be available for small teacher grants.
- Learn more online at www.mnmusicteachers.com/mmta-foundation.

Student of the Year Award

Given to a High School Senior, the Student of the Year Award honors a music student who demonstrates involvement in MMTA programs. The candidate should display a strong record of service to community through music, participation in musical ensembles, and skill as a performer and creative musician.

The Award is presented at the MMTA Foundation Award Winners Recital.

Bravo Advertisements

Parents, teachers, and friends of Honors Concert participants are encouraged to congratulate their student with a Bravo Ad. Ads include a photo of the performer, and a brief congratulatory message which will be displayed in a slide show prior to the annual Honors Concert. A payment of \$30 is to accompany each ad.

To make a payment and submit an ad, visit www.mnmusicteachers.com/mmta-foundation

MusicLink

MusicLink Foundation

Program Director: Handbook pg 65

How it Works:

Teachers may volunteer to teach a student that they know has financial need or they can express their interest in being linked with a qualifying student. Neighborhood schools are contacted to assist in identifying potential students for the program. Financial need is determined by inclusion in the free or reduced school lunch program or evidence of other financial hardship. Qualifying students must show an interest in learning music and must have parental support. The MusicLink Foundation assists in getting a practice instrument for the student. MusicLink teachers receive an I.D. number which qualifies them for discounts on music and materials for their MusicLink students. MusicLink students also qualify for various scholarship opportunities.



Benefits:

MMTA Support MMTA shows its support for the MusicLink program by:

1. Waiving program fees for MusicLink students.
2. Offering a 50% discount on educational materials for MusicLink students.
3. Extending a \$10 discount on the Syllabus Package to MMTA member MusicLink teachers.
4. Sponsoring the MusicLink Playathon at the Mall of America.
5. Offering two free Honors Concert tickets for the families of MusicLink student performers.

MMTA Event Registration:

To register a MusicLink student online for an MMTA event (MMTA members only):

1. Complete the online registration form by the registration deadline.
2. Since a credit card payment is required, contact the MMTA Office by email to ask for a refund. Let office personnel know a MusicLink student has been registered. In the email, include the following information:
 - MusicLink Teacher number
 - Date of registration
 - Order number
 - Event
 - Registration fee amount for that particular student.
3. MMTA will issue a refund within 1-2 weeks.

To register a MusicLink Student by mail:

1. Complete the paper registration form and mail to the office by the registration deadline.
2. Write your MusicLink teacher number at the top of the form.
3. Do not send payment for that particular student.
 - Note: If registering a student for Ensemble Festival, indicate which student(s) are MusicLink student(s).

MusicLink Playathon

Program Director: Handbook pg 66

Purpose:

The MusicLink Foundation believes that anyone who shows musical potential should be given the opportunity to nurture this musical promise to its full extent. MMTA and Schmitt Music sponsor an annual Playathon at the Mall of America to raise funds to benefit the MusicLink Foundation. Students of all ages and their teachers are invited to perform at this exciting venue demonstrating how their music can benefit others.

Location and Dates: February 22-23, 2025 ▪ Macy's Court, Mall of America, Bloomington, MN

Deadline: February 12, 2025

How to Register:

- Note: You do not have to be an MMTA member to register online for the Playathon.
- Register online by going to www.mnmusicteachers.com/events. Or,
- Download and print forms for MusicLink Playathon from the MMTA website. Or obtain a form from Sue Wege. Then, send completed form to: Sue Wege, NCTM, 881 Hillside Trail S., Cottage Grove, MN 55106 OR swege71@comcast.net

Fee: Participants collect donations from family and friends.

Procedures:

- All instrumental and voice students of all ages (including adult students), and MMTA member and non-member teachers are invited to participate.
- Performances may be solos or ensembles.
- Performers may perform 1 or 2 pieces as desired.
- A grand piano, CD/MP3 player, microphone and music stand will be provided.

Scheduling:

- Performers may request to play on either Saturday or Sunday. Performance times will be sent to a student's teacher after the registration deadline has passed and all performers have been scheduled.
- There will also be a Popular Styles Hour on Saturday evening.

Donations:

- Each performer is expected to collect donations from friends, family, and their community.
- Donation amount may be set by the donor.
- Donations and donation cards should be brought to the Playathon to be turned in at Check-In.
- Donations are tax-deductible. A receipt will be given on the day of the Playathon at Check-Out.
- Donations can also be made online through the MusicLink Foundation website (www.musiclinkfoundation.org). Click "Donate," then specify the donation is for the MN Playathon. Please include the performer's name.
- Donations will also be accepted at the Playathon (check, cash, or credit card).

Awards:

- Participants who collect donations totaling specific amounts receive the following:
 - \$25 or more = MusicLink Prize

- \$50 or more = MusicLink Tote Bag
- \$100 or more = Recognition and Photograph in MusicLink e-newsletter
- \$250 or more = \$50 Target gift card
- Challenge Award Points: 100 (See Handbook p. 20 for more information).

Program Information

General Rules and Procedures for all MMTA Programs

1. Teachers registering students for MMTA programs must be MMTA members in good standing. Non-members may register students for MMTA programs by paying an additional entry fee of \$60 per event. A registrant must be a student of the same teacher for the current year, for at least three months prior to the event date.
Collegiate students may register themselves for the Young Artist Contest regardless of whether they or their teachers are current members of MMTA.
2. Teachers registering students for any MMTA program are expected to assist in some manner or send a studio representative to assist as needed. A studio representative may be a parent or responsible older student.
3. Communication regarding any student program must be between the teacher and the Site Administrator or Program Director. It is inappropriate for a student or parent to contact MMTA program personnel and may result in the student's disqualification.
4. MMTA welcomes students with special needs. Adaptations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Program Director and/or Site Administrator.
5. Event dates, locations, and registration deadlines are subject to change, or may be canceled. Changes and cancellations will be announced as far in advance as possible. The online Handbook and Events section of the MMTA website will be kept up-to-date. It is the teacher's responsibility to be aware of any alterations. (See cancellation policy for more information.)
6. An event may be canceled/postponed for various reasons, including adverse weather and driving conditions. Registered students may re-register for the rescheduled date or at a different site within six months of the original event, at no additional charge.
7. All registrations must be submitted with payment by the deadline for that event.
 - a. Go to www.mnmusicteachers.com to register online. Members must log in to register. Deadlines for online registrations are the same as postmark deadlines.
 - OR**
 - b. Mail or hand-deliver registrations to the MMTA Office at:
MMTA 10800 Lyndale Ave. S, Ste. 120 Bloomington, MN 55420
8. An application/registration may not be withdrawn or changed after it has been submitted.
9. Fees for participation in a program must be paid by the teacher (with exception of a collegiate student registering for Young Artist Contest). MMTA will accept credit cards, or a single check drawn from the teacher's bank account. Checks will not be accepted from non-collegiate students or parents.
10. No refunds are granted if a student is unable to participate once registered for an event.
11. Non-members must pay an additional \$60 *per event*. (One event = one day and one location.)
12. Schedule requests for general AM or PM times will be honored as time allows. Only those requests submitted at the time of registration will be considered.
13. Requests for schedule changes may be granted at the discretion of the Site Administrator. A surcharge must be paid to MMTA before the student may participate.
14. Event schedules and other information will be sent to teachers with registered students at least 10 days prior to the event. Results will be mailed or emailed to teachers following the event.
15. MMTA expects all entrants to abide by copyright law. (For cases when students can or will use printed or copy music, see "Music Release Form" on the next page.)
16. Decisions of judges are final.

Music Release Form

If the student will be using copyrighted music printed from a legal, online source, a music release form must be completed and presented at the Registration Desk on the day of the event. Forms are available on the MMTA website under Programs/Piano (www.mnmusicteachers.com/program/piano).

Illness or Family Emergency

If a student is unable to attend the event that they are registered for, the teacher must contact the Site Administrator as soon as possible.

- For Contests and Festivals, individual appointments with a judge are not available. The only time a student may participate is on the day of the contest or festival.
- For exams, the Program Director will need to give permission for a student to be re-registered for a later exam date. The teacher must re-register the student for a later exam date. A doctor's note must be submitted with the registration to receive payment reimbursement.

Cancellation Policy

A site administrator may cancel an MMTA event under circumstances if the conditions of the facility or its equipment cannot accommodate the program, if the conditions to run the program become hazardous, or if the personnel cannot adequately administer it. Before canceling, the site administrator must consult the program director and the supervising VP. The site administrator makes the final decision to cancel the event.

Under no circumstances does MMTA provide refunds or credits for canceled programs. Teachers may enter students in the rescheduled date or enter students at a different location within six months of the canceled event for no charge. If a site administrator cancels an event, MMTA personnel will make all reasonable efforts to reschedule that event and accommodate reschedule requests. Site administrators should try to hold rescheduled events within one month of the canceled date.

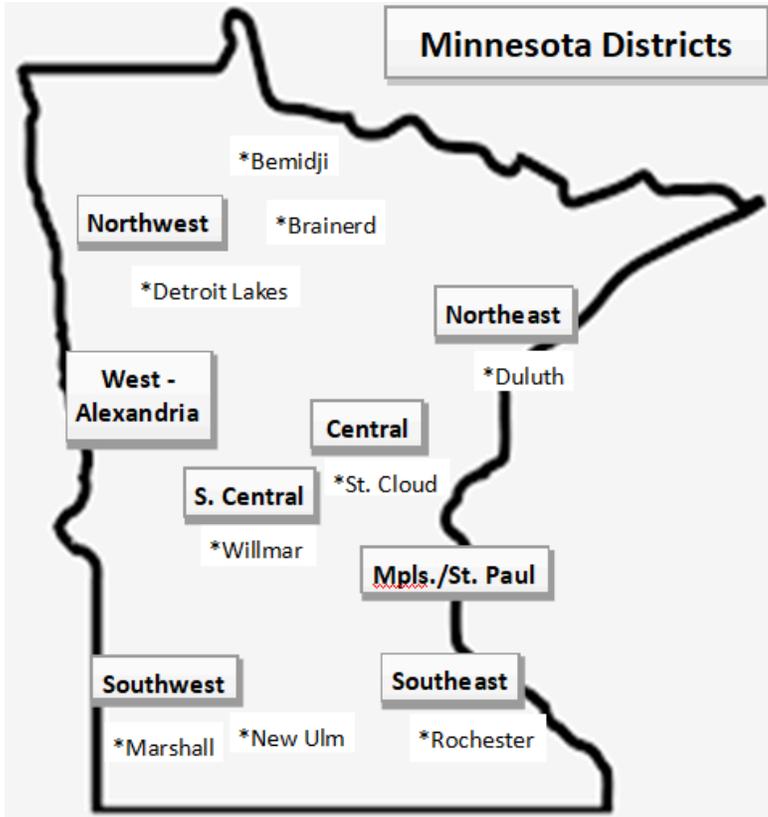
Failure to comply with these rules and procedures may result in disqualification.

Theory Prerequisites

General Guidelines:

- MMTA requires students to have passed certain levels of theory in order to participate in contests and to receive a comprehensive piano exam certificate.
- Students do not need to begin in theory level 1. They may start at any level they are ready for in their musical development.
- The level prerequisites are the minimum. Students may take a higher level exam to fulfill the requirement.
- Exams from other states or other Minnesota organizations do not fulfill this requirement.
- See each program for specific theory prerequisites.

MMTA District Map and Abbreviations



*Map is not to scale. District/city placements are approximations.

NOTE

Students may be registered in any event, anywhere in the state, regardless of where they live. Program prerequisites must still be adhered to.

District/Site Abbreviations

C Central - St. Cloud	TC Twin Cities
SCW South Central - Willmar	TCB TC - Bethel University
M Minneapolis	TCC TC - Crown College
NE Northeast - Duluth	TCEP TC - Eden Prairie
NW Northwest	TCKS TC - K&S Studios, Woodbury
NWB NW - Bemidji	TCN TC - Normandale Coll., B'ton.
NWDL NW - Detroit Lakes	TCNC TC- Univ. of Northwestern- St. Paul
SE Southeast - Rochester	TCR TC - Roseville
SP St. Paul	TCSC Univ. of St. Catherine
SW Southwest	TCSE TC - Southeast
SWM Southwest - Marshall	TCST TC - St. Thomas U, St. Paul
SWNU Southwest - New Ulm	TCU TC - U of MN, Ferguson Hall
SWW Southwest - Windom	WA West - Alexandria

Program/Committee Abbreviations

PRE-PRI Pre-Primary	YA Young Artist	EF Ensemble Festival
PRI Primary	JYA Junior YA	MB Music Bridges
JRA Junior A	SYA Senior YA	ML MusicLink
JRB Junior B	HS High School	IMTF Independent Music Teachers Forum
INA Intermediate A	Str Strings	JEC Judge Education Committee
INB Intermediate B	MTNA Music Teachers Nat'l. Assn.	MMTAF MN Music Teachers Assn. Foundation
SRA Senior A	PN Piano	
SRB Senior B	KE Keyboard Skills	
Gr Guitar	SP Sightplaying	
On Organ	TH Theory	
Vn Violin		
Vo Voice		
WW Woodwinds		

MMTA Event Prices

- Prices listed below reflect the price per student per event. The only exception is Ensemble Festival - the price listed is paid by the ensemble as a group, regardless of size of the group.
- Fees must be paid by a student's teacher, with the exception of College Young Artist.
- Non-members must pay an additional \$60 *per event*. (One event = one day and one location.)

Performance Competitions and Festivals:

All Instruments (Piano, Voice, and Instrumental)

- Contest Preliminaries \$28
- Contest Finals \$28
- Solo Festival \$28
- Young Artist \$60
- Late Registration Fee \$50/per teacher
- Switch from in-person to virtual \$10
- District Change \$10
- Schedule Changes \$10

- Primary \$27
- Elementary \$35
- Junior \$40
- Senior \$50

Ensemble Festival

- Per ensemble \$30

Music Bridges

- Short (20-minute program) \$32
- Medium (30-minute program) \$48
- Long (40-minute program) \$64

Student Composition Contest and Festival

MMTA Exams										
Exam Level	Piano	Keyboard Skills	Sightplaying	Theory	Popular Styles	Voice	Flute (Woodwind)	Guitar	Organ	Violin/ Viola
Prep	\$33	\$18	\$17						\$33	
1	\$33	\$18	\$17	\$28	\$45	\$33	\$56	\$26	\$45	\$33
2	\$38	\$18	\$18	\$30	\$45	\$33	\$62	\$33	\$45	\$33
3	\$45	\$18	\$19	\$30	\$45	\$38	\$67	\$38	\$45	\$33
4	\$51	\$18	\$19	\$30	\$45	\$38	\$72	\$45		\$38
5	\$51	\$18	\$20	\$32		\$45	\$78	\$51		\$38
6	\$51	\$18	\$20	\$43			\$83	\$56		\$45
7	\$56	\$20		\$45			\$88	\$62		\$45
8	\$62	\$22		\$48				\$67		\$51
9	\$67	\$23						\$72		
10	\$78	\$23						\$78		
11	\$78							\$83		
Capstone	\$152							N/A		
12								\$88		

Event Registration Procedures

General Information

- Before completing the registration process, see **General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs**. All teachers must comply with general rules and procedures.
- Check program-specific requirements and rules before registering any student.
- Current members may register students for events online or by mail.
- If registering a student in MusicLink, see the section on MusicLink for information on special registration procedures.

How to Register for Events Online (MMTA Members ONLY):

1. Log in to the MMTA website.
2. Click “Events” on the menu.
3. Find the desired event.
 - a. By Date (note: events are listed by the date they occur, *not the deadline*): Click on the right arrows next to the name of the month to move the calendar forward. Use arrows on the left to move the calendar backward.
 - b. By location, event type, or program type: Use the checkboxes to filter and for the desired event.
4. Click “View Details” for the desired event.
5. Type in how many students you wish to register, then click “Add registration to cart.”
6. Click “Cart,” then click “Checkout.”
7. Fill in the registration information for each student. When finished, click “Continue to next step.”
8. Fill in or select billing and shipping address(es), then click “Continue to next step.”
9. Review registration and personal information, and then enter credit card information. When finished, click “Continue to next step.”
10. The checkout process is then complete. Watch for a confirmation email in your inbox.

How to Register for Events by Mail:

1. Download paper forms from the MMTA web site (on any event page for an MMTA event), or obtain one from the MMTA office.
2. Complete the paper form.
3. Mail the registration form and send payment by check to the MMTA office. *Never mail cash or credit card information: it is not secure, and MMTA is not responsible for lost cash or stolen credit card information.*

Following Registration Submission:

- Teachers can generally expect to receive performance times for registered students approximately 10 days before the event date. Information is most often sent by email. If information is not received by mail or email by one week prior to the event, please contact the Site Administrator.
- When schedule information is sent to you by the Site Administrator or MMTA Office, please do the following:
 - Give schedule information to your student(s).
 - If the schedule and/or a copy of the form is mailed to you rather than emailed, send the paper form with the student to present on the day of the event.

Results

- Results will be sent to the teacher during the week following the exam date.
 - Exceptions: Student Composition Contest results will be returned to the teacher 6-8 weeks following the submission deadline, and Virtual exam results will be emailed or mailed to the teacher approximately two weeks after the event deadline.
- The Judge Education Committee (JEC) welcomes both positive feedback and grievances in written form. Please see p. 18 for information about submitting feedback.

Virtual Events

What are virtual events?

MMTA offers some events in virtual form to give students and their families an alternative option beyond in-person events. While MMTA strives to keep the virtual format similar to what a student would experience at in-person events, there are some notable differences. Specific instructions will be sent to teachers prior to the event date, but a general overview of virtual events is provided below.

Virtual/Pre-Recorded Contests & Solo Festivals (*Piano Contest/Solo Festival, Voice & Instrumental Solo Festival*)

If any or all of these events are held virtually, students would record themselves playing their pieces(s) and submit video(s) to MMTA through the MMTA website. A judge reviews each student's video(s) and provides written feedback and a grade just as they would at the in-person contest. After all judging has been completed, results are either emailed or mailed to teachers, and certificates are mailed to teachers.

Virtual/Pre-Recorded Piano Exams

Prior to the Piano Exam event date, information will be sent to teachers which they then share with their students.

- Student number (if applicable)
- A link to exam materials available for viewing or download from the MMTA website
- Exam submission instructions and other relevant information

Students record video(s) of themselves playing their exam(s) as if they were at an exam site with a judge. Video(s) are then submitted to MMTA through the MMTA website. A judge reviews each student's video(s) and provides written feedback and a score just as they would at an in-person exam. After judging has been completed, e-critiques will be emailed to teachers, and certificates will be mailed to teachers.

Virtual/On-Line Theory Exams

The written and aural portions of the Theory Exam will be done by students in their home. Students will meet with a judge by FaceTime or Google Meet on the exam date to play the keyboard portion of the exam. Teachers will be asked to provide an email address and phone contact information for each student at the time of registration.

Prior to the Theory Exam event date, information will be sent to teachers which they then share with their students.

- Student number (if applicable)
- A link to exam materials available for viewing and download from the MMTA website
- Exam submission instructions and relevant information

Completed written and aural exam papers are to be mailed to the MMTA Office, postmarked no later than the Tuesday following the exam date OR submitted online through the MMTA website. After grading has been completed, score sheets will either be emailed or mailed to teachers, and certificates/graded exam materials will be mailed to teachers.

Virtual/Pre-Recorded Popular Styles Exams

Prior to the Piano Exam event date, information will be sent to teachers which they then share with their students.

- Student number (if applicable)
- A link to exam materials available for viewing or download from the MMTA website
- Exam submission instructions and other relevant information

Students record video(s) of themselves playing their exam(s) as if they were at an exam site with a judge. Video(s) are then submitted to MMTA through the MMTA website. A judge reviews each student's video(s) and provides written feedback and a score just as they would at an in-person exam. After judging has been completed, e-critiques will be emailed to teachers, and certificates will be mailed to teachers.

Virtual/On-Line Voice & Instrumental Exams

Teachers must register their students for the Virtual Exam. After receiving all registrations the Program Director will send out information and exam materials to teachers and set up the Exam time. Prior to the Exam date, students will upload their performance video to YouTube (per instructions) and send the link to the Program Director. The student will meet with the judge over Zoom to go through the sections that must be done live. The judge will score the live portions, critique the performance videos, and submit the scores.

Virtual/On-Line Music Bridges

Students will meet virtually with a judge on the day of the event. The judge will review the student's performance and complete an e-critique. The e-critique will be emailed to the teacher following the exam, along with a certificate.

Judging and the Judge Education Committee

The Judge Education Committee (JEC) nurtures and supports the professional development of new and experienced judges, and oversees all aspects of the adjudication process for MMTA programs.

Becoming an MMTA Endorsed Judge

An MMTA Endorsed Judge is an MMTA member and experienced teacher who is passionate about music and music education. MMTA Endorsed Judges are “endorsed” by completing a training process consisting of: submitting an application, attending an overview of philosophy and current program judging directives, receiving a favorable evaluation of their written critiques. MMTA Endorsed Judges periodically attend judge continuing education sessions.

Steps Toward Becoming an MMTA Endorsed Judge

1. Submit an application to become an MMTA Endorsed Judge at www.mnmusicteachers.com/mmta-judge-application
2. Attend a JEC orientation for Endorsed Judge Candidates. This may be offered at convention, in a small group, or by appointment.
3. In preparation for the first judging assignment, the Endorsed Judge Candidate will be provided with a playlist for writing practice critiques. Feedback on practice critiques will be provided.
4. Judge at an MMTA site (or for a virtual event) as an Endorsed Judge Candidate and have critiques evaluated by the JEC.
5. Become an Endorsed Judge after receiving a favorable evaluation.
6. Attend at least one Endorsed Judge Continuing Education session every four years.
7. As part of continuing education, each judge’s critiques will be reviewed at roughly five-year intervals and written feedback provided.

Benefits of Becoming an Endorsed MMTA Judge

1. In recognition of the extra effort taken to become endorsed and maintain that status, endorsed judges are paid at a higher rate than those who are not endorsed.
2. Names of MMTA Endorsed Judges are provided to the site administrators for MMTA program events and will be the first to be contacted for judging.
3. MMTA Endorsed Judges are invited to participate in an online availability survey each quarter of the program year.

Maintaining Endorsed Judge Status

MMTA is an organization with a wide variety of adjudicated events that are constantly evolving to meet the needs of today’s teachers and students. Thus, continuing education and evaluations are an important part of maintaining endorsement.

1. Attend at least one Endorsed Judge Continuing Education session every four years. These are offered annually at conventions.
2. As part of continuing education, each judge’s critiques will be reviewed at roughly five year intervals and written feedback provided.

Teacher Feedback Regarding Adjudication

From time to time, teachers and students may wish to provide feedback to the JEC regarding a judging issue or a particular judge. The JEC welcomes both positive feedback and grievances.

Please provide, in writing:

- A copy of the critique in question and
- A statement giving an account of the particular experience or issue you wish the committee to address.
- Send both documents to the JEC Chair: Wendy Moyer, wendy@moyermusicstudio.com.

Judge Education Committee Members

See Handbook p 66 for committee information.

Certificates and Awards

Certificates

Most MMTA programs award certificates to students who have completed an event as a way to celebrate their accomplishments.

Certificate Upgrade for Comprehensive Piano Exams

If a student has not passed the appropriate theory level prior to or on the same day as their Comprehensive Piano Exam, a small Performance certificate is awarded. Once the student passes the Theory Exam, a copy of the Theory Exam score sheet may be sent to the Piano Exam Program Director with a request for a large Comprehensive certificate (See p. 51 for Program Director contact information).

Duplicate Certificates

Replacement certificates are available for all programs listed above for a small replacement fee. Contact the Program Director to request replacement(s). (See p 65 for Program Director contact information).

- Contests - \$2 replacement fee
- Exams - \$5 replacement fee

Other Awards and Recognitions

Several programs offer awards in addition to achievement certificates.

- Piano Contest: Pianists with the highest scores in the Final Contest are selected for ensemble performance in the Honors Concert at the Minneapolis Convention Center.
- Piano Young Artist Contest: Pianists with the highest scores in the Contest may be selected for additional performance opportunities, including ensemble performance in the Piano Contest Honors Concert at the Minneapolis Convention Center, or the MMTA Foundation Award Winners Recital at the MMTA annual convention.
- Piano Exams: Monetary awards are given to students in level 4 and above who pass their comprehensive piano exam with high distinction *and* have met the theory prerequisite prior to or on the same day as the piano exam.
- Theory Exams: Monetary awards are given to students who pass levels 5-8 with high distinction, and to students with the highest scores in levels 7 and 8.
- Voice & Instrumental Young Artist Contest: Monetary awards are given to winners in each category.
- Voice & Instrumental Exams: Monetary awards for some exam levels are given to the highest scoring students at the end of each academic year.
- Student Composition Contest: First, Second, and Third Place winners and Honorable Mention are chosen in each category. Winners receive a special certificate and a monetary award, and are invited to play in the Student Composition Contest recital at the annual MMTA Convention.
- Teacher Original Duet Composition Contest: The winning composition will be programmed as one of the pieces for the Piano Honors Concert at the end of the current academic year.
- Logowear Contest: Winner of the contest will receive a free t-shirt with their design printed on it.

MMTA Challenge Awards

Purpose:

The MMTA Challenge Award program provides an incentive for participation in the MMTA programs. The intention is to reward students at every level of ability.

Guidelines

- Teachers must keep accurate records of each student's events and provide documentation if requested by the MMTA Office.
- A teacher may begin recording points earned as of Fall 2010, *with exception of events starred in the list below - only points earned after Fall 2015 may be counted.
- Points are cumulative indefinitely.
- Points may be transferred between studios. Parents may provide documentation to a new teacher.
- Points may be combined from piano, instrumental, and voice activities with different teachers.
- Only MMTA events qualify for points. (Local Association and MTNA events do not qualify).

Point Accrue ment

Students receive points for participating in the following programs:

300-Point Events:

- Comprehensive Piano Exam
- Comprehensive Voice Exam
- Flute, Guitar, Organ, and String Exams

200-Point Events:

- Music Bridges
- Young Artist Contests

100-Point Events:

- Piano Solo Festival
- Piano Contest Preliminaries
- Piano Contest Finals
- State Vocal and Instrumental Contests
- State Vocal and Instrumental Finale Concert*
- Student Composition Contest
- Ensemble Festival (per student, per ensemble, limit 200 points per year per student)
- Keyboard Skills Only Exam
- Sight Playing Only Exam
- Theory Exam
- Popular Styles Exam
- Honors Concert Participant – Piano*
- MusicLink Playathon
- String Recital
- MMTA Convention Masterclass Participant

Awards

Once students have accrued points, they earn the following awards:

- 300 Points - Rosette Ribbon
- 700 Points - Bronze Pin
- 1200 Points - Silver Pin
- 1800 Points - Gold Pin
- 2500 Points - The Challenge Award Trophy
- 3500 Points - Raised Bronze Star Pin
- 4500 Points - Raised Silver Star Pin
- 6000 Points - Grand Challenge Awards Trophy
- 8500 Points - Raised Gold Star Pin
- 10000 Points - Ultimate Challenge Award Trophy

How to Obtain Awards

- The cost of the awards is included in event registration fees.
- Ribbon and pin awards are available through the MMTA website and for pick up during MMTA office hours. These awards may also be shipped - Shipping & Handling fees are listed on the order form.
- Trophies will be custom engraved and are ordered through the MMTA online store. Orders must be received by November 15, March 20, or May 20 and will be ordered only on those dates regardless of when the trophy request is submitted. Finished trophies will be available approximately 4-6 weeks after the order date - teachers will be notified upon arrival. Trophies may then be picked up during MMTA office hours or may be shipped - Shipping and Handling fees are listed on the order form.
 - Complete the customization form in the online store prior to the deadline. If trophies are to be shipped, add them to your shopping cart and complete the checkout process.
- Teachers may purchase a Display Package and/or other display items and posters for their studios
- Website Information Customization form: www.mnmusicteachers.com/challenge-award-trophy-student-information



Programs and Events – Piano

Piano Contest

Purpose

To encourage high performance standards, MMTA sponsors an annual Piano Contest. Pianists select repertoire from an annual list. Students with the highest scores in the Final Contest are invited to an ensemble performance in the Honors Concert. The concert is a gala event involving around 500 young performers playing on 20 grand pianos in ensemble groups.

Challenge Awards

When students participate in the piano contest, they earn challenge award points as follows:

- 100 points for participating in the preliminary contest.
- 100 points for participating in the finals contest.
- 100 points for participating in the honors concert.

Dates and Locations

Note: All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the MMTA newsletters, and/or contact the contest program director for the most up-to-date information.

In the event an in-person event needs to be changed to a virtual event, student video submissions are due the day of the contest or as announced.

Preliminary Contest

- January 18, 2025:
 - Southeast (SE) District – Rochester Community & Technical College, Rochester
- January 25, 2025:
 - Northwest (NW) District – First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- January 25 and 26, 2025:
 - Twin Cities (TC) District – Bethel University, Arden Hills
- January 26, 2025:
 - Virtual Contest – Video submissions due by 11:59pm
- February 1, 2025:
 - Central (C) District – Benedicta Arts Center, College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud
 - Northeast (NE) District – Tower Hall, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth
 - West-Alexandria (WA) District – Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexandria
 - Southwest-Marshall (SW) District – St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Marshall

Finals Contest

- March 8-9, 2025: Ferguson Hall, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis

Honors Concert

- Rehearsal Dates: April 12, May 3, May 17 2025 at Schmitt Music, Bloomington
- Honors Concert and Dress Rehearsal: May 31, 2025, 7:00pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis

Registration: Deadlines and Procedures

1. Online registrations must be submitted by the deadline listed below. Mailed registrations must be postmarked by the deadline listed below.
 - Preliminary Contest Registration Deadline: December 1, 2024
 - Finals Contest Registration for the Twin Cities District (TC): February 2, 2025
 - Finals Contest Registration for all other (non-TC) districts: February 9, 2025
 - Honors Concert Registration: March 16, 2025
2. Time requests will only be considered when submitted with registration.
3. Requesting a time change:
 - a. Time change requests must be made by a student's teacher. Fee is \$10 per student.
 - b. For preliminaries, time change requests can be made up until January 4, 2025. For finals, time change requests can be made until February 22, 2025.
 - c. To request a time change, contact the MMTA office (mmta@mnmusicteachers.com or 952-345-0629).
 - d. No day or district changes are allowed.
4. Teachers can generally expect to receive schedule information approximately 10 days before the date of the Piano Contest. If the teacher does not receive information within one week of the event, contact the site administrator.

Fees

- Contest Preliminaries \$28
- Contest Finals \$28
- Young Artist \$60
- Late Registration Fee \$50 per teacher
- Switch from in-person to virtual \$10
- Schedule Changes \$10

Rules and Procedures for the Contest (Preliminaries and Finals)

Failure to comply with any of these rules can result in disqualification from the piano contest.

1. General Rules:
 - a. See "General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs." All teachers must comply with all general rules and procedures.
2. Registration Rules:
 - a. A registrant must be a student of the same teacher for the current year, for at least three months prior to the preliminary contest date.
 - b. For the preliminary contest, a student may be entered in any one category, in one district, and with only one piece.
 - c. Students may not compete in both the Piano Contest and the Young Artist Piano Contest in the same year.
 - d. Students may perform in both Piano Solo Festival and Piano Contest *or* Piano Solo Festival and Piano Young Artist Competition in the same year. However, participation must be at different levels with different pieces.
 - e. Students must be entered for the correct category. (See more information on "category" listed below.)
 - f. Students entered in Intermediate A category and above must meet the theory requirement in order to be eligible to advance to the finals. Those theory requirements are:
 - i. Intermediate A and Intermediate B must pass MMTA Theory Exam Level 2 or higher before preliminaries.
 - ii. Senior A and Senior B must pass MMTA Theory Exam Level 3 or higher before preliminaries.

3. Repertoire and Sources:

- a. A student must play a piece from the repertoire list and from the same category for which they are registered. (For example, a student registered to compete in the “Junior A” category must play a piece from the “Junior A” list.) The current list and updates are available at www.mnmusicteachers.com/program/piano.
- b. Updates to the Materials List (if any) will be announced in the MMTA Weekly Update emails and newsletter and on the website. Teachers are responsible for taking note of any and all updates.
- c. The piece performed at Preliminaries may be changed from the one registered to another piece in the same category without approval.
- d. Students must play the same piece at both Preliminary and Final Contests.
- e. Students must use a legal copy of music. This includes:
 - i. A physical copy of the music.
 - ii. A piece that is purchased and legally downloaded and printed.
 - iii. A piece that is from the public domain and printed.
- f. Photocopies of music are not allowed.
- g. If a student uses a piece that is purchased or used legally, downloaded, and printed, then that student must present an MMTA Contest Music Release Form.
- h. Students may use a musical source other than the one listed as long as the content is the same. However, it is recommended that the used source is compared to the listed source to assure content is the same.

4. Performance Rules:

- a. Music must be memorized for both Preliminary and Final Contest.
- b. Repeats, Da Capos, and Dal Segnos must be observed as indicated on the Piano Contest/Piano Solo Festival List and list updates.

5. Contest Day Rules:

- a. No apparatus, such as a pedal box, may be used at the piano contest. Students must use the benches in the room. A student may bring a footstool or a pillow but must carry it in and set it up by themselves.
- b. Students must bring music to the contest with measures numbered. Note: only measures that have a downbeat are considered a measure and should be numbered. (For example, a pick-up measure does not have a downbeat, so it does not receive a measure number.)
- c. Students who do not bring music will receive a critique, but will be disqualified from advancing to the finals round or disqualified from being declared a winner.
- d. Only the judge and the student are allowed in the contest room.
- e. Recording of the student’s performance is not allowed.
- f. 30-60 seconds of warm-up time is allowed in which students may play any memorized chords, scales, a glissando, or some portion of another piece, and/or may test the pedals. No portion of their contest piece may be played as a warm-up.

Category

- Category is determined by age as of September 1, 2024:
 - Ages 6 and younger: Pre-Primary (PPR)
 - Ages 7-8: Primary (PRI)
 - Ages 9-10: Junior A (JRA)
 - Ages 11-12: Junior B (JRB)
 - Ages 13-14: Intermediate A (INA)
 - Ages 15-16: Intermediate B (INB)
 - Ages 17-18: Senior A (SRA)
 - Ages 19-20: Senior B (SRB)

- Students 6 years old or under on September 1st may enter only the Pre-Primary Category with a Pre-Primary piece. Pre-Primary students play only at the Preliminary Contest.
- Pre-Primary Students must remain in Pre-Primary until they reach the correct age for Primary, even if declared a winner (See “category Advancement” below).
- A student 7 years or older may play in a higher age category if determined appropriate by their teacher; however, the student may not enter the contest in a younger age category the following year. All category advancement rules would apply should the student be declared a winner.

Category Advancement

- A student who competed in Primary-Senior A must advance one category higher in the following year's contest if they were:
 - Declared a winner and performed in the Honors Concert.
 - Declared a winner but did not perform in the Honors Concert for any reason.
 - Declared an alternate, called to perform in the Honors Concert, and accepted the ensemble. (An alternate is not required to advance to a higher category if called to perform but did not accept the ensemble assignment).
- A student who has been declared as a winner in the Senior B category must move on to the Young artist Piano Contest.
- A Pre-Primary age student may continue to compete in the Pre-Primary level as long as they meet the age requirement, even if they have been declared a Pre-Primary winner in previous years. They may only move to Primary if they are 7 years old.

Doorkeepers

Doorkeepers are volunteers who check in each performer at the door of the performance room. They track all participants by number and help the judge stay on schedule. Snacks and lunch are provided for Doorkeepers. Student volunteers receive a small monetary payment. Please indicate names of any and all available doorkeepers at the time of registration.

Honors Concert

- Students selected as winners at the Final Contest are invited to play in the MMTA Honors Concert. Students play an ensemble with others in their category. A conductor will lead the performance of each ensemble.
- Each student is assigned an ensemble part which they are to learn prior to the first rehearsal. Music must be memorized by the second or third rehearsal, depending on the student's category.
- Ensemble assignments will be sent with grades after the Final Contest.
- Students selected as alternates will be invited to play in the Honors Concert as needed. The Honors Concert Chair will contact a student's teacher if the need arises.
- All students who participate in the Honors Concert MUST attend both the third rehearsal and the dress rehearsal to be eligible to perform in the concert.
- Absence requests in cases of emergency for the first and second rehearsals may be submitted in writing to the Honors Concert Chair prior to the rehearsal. Requests may be approved or denied at the discretion of the Chair.

Piano Solo Festival



Purpose

To encourage performance for all ages by using the State Contest repertoire, MMTA sponsors an annual Piano Solo Festival. Students who cannot or do not wish to compete in Piano Contest may perform for written comments from a judge. Students who participate in Piano Solo Festival are not eligible to participate in Piano Contest Finals with their Piano Solo Festival piece.

Challenge Awards

Students receive 100 challenge award points for participating in the Solo Festival.

Dates and Locations

Note: All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the MMTA newsletters, and/or contact the contest program director for the most up-to-date information.

In the event an in-person event needs to be changed to a virtual event, student video submissions are due the day of the contest or as announced.

- January 18, 2025:
 - Southeast (SE) District – Rochester Community & Technical College, Rochester
- January 25, 2025:
 - Northwest (NW) District – First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- January 25 and 26, 2025:
 - Twin Cities (TC) District – Bethel University, Arden Hills
- January 26, 2025:
 - Virtual Festival – Video submissions due by 11:59pm
- February 1, 2025:
 - Central (C) District – Benedicta Arts Center, College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud
 - Northeast (NE) District – Tower Hall, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth
 - West-Alexandria (WA) District – Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexandria
 - Southwest-Marshall (SW) District – St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Marshall

Registration: Deadlines and Procedures

1. Registration deadline for the Solo Festival is December 1, 2024.
2. Time requests will only be considered when submitted with registration.
3. Requesting a time change:
 - a. Time change requests must be made by a student’s teacher. Fee is \$10 per student.
 - b. Time change requests can be made up until January 4, 2025.
 - c. To request a time change, contact the MMTA office (mmta@mnmusicteachers.com or 952-345-0629).
 - d. No day or district changes are allowed.
4. Teachers can generally expect to receive schedule information approximately 10 days before the date of the Solo Festival. If the teacher does not receive information within one week of the event, contact the site administrator.

Fees

- Solo Festival Entry Fee \$28
- Late Registration Fee \$50 per teacher
- Switch from in-person to virtual \$10
- Schedule Changes \$10

Rules and Procedures for the Solo Festival

Failure to comply with any of these rules can result in disqualification from the piano solo festival.

1. General Rules:

- a. See “General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs.” All teachers must comply with all general rules and procedures.

2. Registration Rules:

- a. A registrant must be a student of the same teacher for the current year, for at least three months prior to the preliminary contest date.
- b. Students may be entered in any one district only, with one piece. This includes Twin Cities-Saturday and Twin Cities-Sunday, which are two separate events.
- c. Students may perform in both Piano Solo Festival and Piano Contest *or* Piano Solo Festival and Piano Young Artist Competition in the same year. However, participation must be at different levels with different pieces.
- d. Students may enter any category.
- e. Students can repeat any category from year to year.
- f. There are no age restrictions to participate in the Solo Festival.
- g. There are no theory prerequisites to participate in the Solo Festival.

3. Repertoire and Sources:

- a. A student must play a piece from the repertoire list and from the same category for which they are registered. (For example, a student registered to compete in the “Junior A” category must play a piece from the “Junior A” list.) The current list and updates are available at www.mnmusicteachers.com/program/piano.
- b. Updates to the Materials List (if any) will be announced in the MMTA Weekly Update emails and newsletter and on the website. Teachers are responsible for taking note of any and all updates.
- c. The piece performed at the Solo Festival may be changed from the one registered to another piece in the same category without approval.
- d. Students must use a legal copy of music. This includes:
 - i. A physical copy of the music.
 - ii. A piece that is purchased and legally downloaded and printed.
 - iii. A piece that is from the public domain and printed.
- e. Photocopies of music are not allowed.
- f. If a student uses a piece that is purchased or used legally, downloaded, and printed, then that student must present an MMTA Contest Music Release Form.
- g. Students may use a musical source other than the one listed as long as the content is the same. However, it is recommended that the used source is compared to the listed source to assure content is the same.

4. Performance Rules:

- a. Memorization in the Piano Solo Festival is encouraged but not required. Memorized performances will receive a critique with rating; non-memorized performances will receive a critique.
- b. Students should discuss with their teacher and parents to balance personal factors and participation goals when making a decision on whether or not to memorize.

- c. Repeats, Da Capos, and Dal Segnos must be observed as indicated on the Piano Contest/Piano Solo Festival List and list updates.

5. Festival Day Rules:

- a. The solo festival is held at the same venue as the piano contest.
- b. No apparatus, such as a pedal box, may be used at the piano contest. Students must use the benches in the room. A student may bring a footstool or a pillow but must carry it in and set it up by themselves.
- c. Providing a second score is preferred when a student uses their music; otherwise, the judge may look over the student's shoulder.
- d. Students must bring music to the contest with measures numbered. Note: only measures that have a downbeat are considered a measure and should be numbered. (For example, a pick-up measure does not have a downbeat, so it does not receive a measure number.)
- e. Students who do not bring music will receive a critique, but the comments will be general.
- f. Only the judge and the student are allowed in the festival room.
- g. Recording of the student's performance is not allowed.
- h. 30-60 seconds of warm-up time is allowed in which students may play any memorized chords, scales, a glissando, or some portion of another piece, and/or may test the pedals. No portion of their piece may be played as a warm-up.

Doorkeepers

Doorkeepers are volunteers who check in each performer at the door of the performance room. They track all participants by number and help the judge stay on schedule. Snacks and lunch are provided for Doorkeepers. Student volunteers receive a small monetary payment. Please indicate names of any and all available doorkeepers at the time of registration.



Young Artist Piano Contest

Purpose

To encourage high performance standards, MMTA sponsors a Young Artist Contest. Competition categories include Junior (grades 7-9), Senior (grades 9-12), and College

Challenge Awards

Students receive 200 points for participating in the Young Artist Piano Contest.

Dates and Locations

Note: All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the MMTA newsletters, and/or contact the contest program director for the most up-to-date information.

In the event an in-person event needs to be changed to a virtual event, student video submissions are due the day of the contest or as announced.

- Preliminary Contest: March 1, 2025
- Call Backs: March 2, 2025
- Honors Concert Rehearsal Dates: April 12, May 3, May 17 2025 at Schmitt Music, Bloomington
- Honors Concert and Dress Rehearsal: May 31, 2025, 7:00pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis
- Foundation Awards Winners Recital: TBD

Registration: Deadlines and Procedures

1. Online registrations must be submitted and/or mailed registrations must be postmarked by December 17, 2024.
2. Time requests will only be considered when submitted with registration.
3. Requesting a time change:
 - a. Time change requests must be made by a student's teacher. Fee is \$10 per student.
 - b. For preliminaries, time change requests can be made up until January 4, 2025. For finals, time change requests can be made until February 22, 2025.
 - c. To request a time change, contact the MMTA office (mmta@mnmusicteachers.com or 952-345-0629).
 - d. No day or district changes are allowed.
4. Teachers can generally expect to receive schedule information approximately 10 days before the date of the Piano Contest. If the teacher does not receive information within one week of the event, contact the site administrator.

Fees

- Young Artist Entry Fee \$60
- Late Registration Fee \$50/per teacher
- Schedule Changes \$10

Rules and Procedures for the Young Artist Contest

Failure to comply with any of these rules can result in disqualification from the Young Artist Contest.

1. General Rules:

- a. See "General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs." All teachers must comply with all general rules and procedures.

2. Registration Rules:

- a. A registrant must be a student of the same teacher for the current year, for at least three months prior to the preliminary contest date.
- b. Students may not compete in both the Piano Contest and the Young Artist Contest in the same year.
- c. Students may perform in both Piano Solo Festival and Piano Contest *or* Piano Solo Festival and Piano Young Artist Competition in the same year. However, participation must be at different levels with different pieces.
- d. Students must be entered for the correct category. Categories are as follows:
 - Grades 7-9: Junior Young Artist
 - Grades 9-12: Senior Young Artist
 - Undergraduate: College Young Artist
 - Note: Students in Grade 9 may compete in Junior *or* Senior Young Artist.
- e. Students must meet the theory requirement in order to be eligible to advance to the finals or to be invited to participate in the honors concert. Those theory requirements are:
 - Junior Young Artist: Theory Level 4
 - Senior Young Artist: Theory Level 5
 - College Young Artist: Enrolled in a college theory course.
- f. Students who competed but did not win First Place may compete in the same category providing they meet the grade/age requirement. Performing in the ensemble at the Honors Concert is not considered 1st place.

3. Repertoire and Sources:

- a. Students must play the following program:
 - Junior Young Artist: A solo 7-minute program that consists of at least two pieces from different styles.
 - Senior Young Artist: A solo 15-minute program that consists of at least two pieces from different styles.
 - College Young Artist: A solo 30-minute program that consists of at least two pieces from different styles.
- b. There are no limitations to the program or repertoire. But the following is recommended:
 - Choose selections representing different periods, contrasting styles, and different composers.
 - Choose your repertoire demonstrating the student's musical ability, versatility, and technical facility.
- c. Repertoire must be learned in its entirety. Excerpts of entire pieces may be heard at the judge's discretion.
- d. Students may select single movements of multi-movement works.
- e. Individual movement(s) are allowed and must be indicated at the time of registration. If specific movement(s) are not indicated, it will be assumed that the student is prepared to perform any part of the piece.
- f. Repeats may be included to meet the minimum time. (In such a case, the student must be prepared to perform with repeats to ensure minimum time is met).
- g. Concertos and arrangements are not admissible selections. Transcriptions by major arrangers and composers such as Busoni, Liszt, etc. are allowed.
- h. Once registered for music, changes can be made to the repertoire only with approval from the Young Artist Contest site administrator.
- i. Students must play the same piece at both the preliminaries and call backs.
- j. Students must use a legal copy of music. This includes:
 - A physical copy of the music.

- A piece that is purchased and legally downloaded and printed.
 - A piece that is from the public domain and printed.
 - k. Photocopies of music are not allowed.
 - l. If a student uses a piece that is purchased or used legally, downloaded, and printed, then that student must present an MMTA Contest Music Release Form.
 - m. Students who repeat a category must play different repertoire from the previous year.
4. Performance Rules:
- a. Contestants must perform by memory.
5. Contest Day Rules:
- a. No apparatus, such as a pedal box, may be used at the piano contest. Students must use the benches in the room. A student may bring a footstool or a pillow but must carry it in and set it up by themselves.
 - b. Students must bring music to the contest with measures numbered. Note: only measures that have a downbeat are considered a measure and should be numbered. (For example, a pick-up measure does not have a downbeat, so it does not receive a measure number.)
 - c. Students who do not bring music will receive a critique, but will be disqualified from the contest.
 - d. Only judging personnel and the student are allowed in the contest room.
 - e. Recording of the student's performance is not allowed.
 - f. Students are allowed a 1-2 minute warm up. No portion of their contest piece may be played as a warm-up.

Honors Concert and Winners Recital

- Students selected as winners at Callbacks and other high-scoring participants are invited to play in the MMTA Honors Concert.
- Select winners may be invited to play in the MMTA Foundation Award Winners Recital at the annual MMTA Convention.



Comprehensive Piano, Sight Playing, and Keyboard Exams

Purpose

To develop proficiency and musicianship through twelve levels of curriculum encompassing keyboard skills, sightplaying, and repertoire (Levels Preparatory-11:Capstone). Comprehensive Piano exams include all three elements. Keyboard Skills include scales, chords, and arpeggios and sightplaying helps students gain proficiency in playing at sight at the keyboard. Keyboard and Sightplaying exams can be taken separately and in advance of the repertoire. However, to be considered for an award (levels 4 and up), all three elements must be taken on the same day.

Challenge Awards

- 300 points for the Comprehensive Piano Exam
- 100 points for the Keyboard-Skills-Only Exam
- 100 points for the Sight-Playing-Only Exam

Locations and Deadlines

- Deadlines are generally six weeks before the exam date.
- All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the Newsletter, or contact the program director for up-to-date information.
- For virtual exams, video submissions are due on the date of the exam.
- For in-person exams that were changed to virtual exams, video submissions are due one week after the original exam date.
- The Capstone Piano Exam will be offered *only on 5/18/2025* at St. Joseph's School of Music, St. Paul.

Comprehensive Piano Exams (Levels Prep-11) Keyboard Skills Exams (Levels Prep-10) Sight Playing Exams (Levels Prep-6)			
Event Date	District	Site	Registration Deadline
11/9/2024	C	College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud	9/29/2024
11/16/2024	NW	1st Lutheran - Detroit Lakes, MN	10/06/2024
11/17/2024	Virtual	VIRTUAL/PRE-RECORDED PIANO EXAMS	10/06/2024
11/24/2024	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	10/13/2024
12/8/2024	TC	K & S Conservatory, Woodbury	10/27/2024
1/25/2025	SE	Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester	12/15/2024
3/15/2025	C	St Francis Music Center, Little Falls MN	2/02/2025
3/23/2025	Virtual	VIRTUAL/PRE-RECORDED PIANO EXAMS	2/09/2025
4/26/2025	C	College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	SE	Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	SCW	Eagle Lake Lutheran Church, Willmar	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	NW	1st Lutheran Detroit Lakes	3/16/2025
4/27/2025	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	3/16/2025
5/03/2025	NE	The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth	3/23/2025

5/18/2025	TC	St. Joseph's School of Music, St. Paul	4/06/2025
5/25/2025	Virtual	VIRTUAL/PRE-RECORDED PIANO EXAMS	4/13/2025
8/10/2025	Virtual	VIRTUAL/PRE-RECORDED PIANO EXAMS	6/29/2025
8/17/2025	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	7/06/2025

Fees

Exam Level	Comprehensive Piano Exam	Keyboard-Only Exam	Sight-Playing-Only Exam
Preparatory	\$33	\$18	\$17
1	\$33	\$18	\$17
2	\$38	\$18	\$18
3	\$45	\$18	\$19
4	\$51	\$18	\$19
5	\$51	\$18	\$20
6	\$51	\$18	\$20
7	\$56	\$20	
8	\$62	\$22	
9	\$67	\$23	
10	\$78	\$23	
11	\$78		
Capstone	\$152		

Procedures and Repertoire

1. See General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs.
2. The Comprehensive Piano Exam includes keyboard skills, sightplaying, and repertoire.
 - a. For Levels Prep-10: Keyboard Skills (Prep-10), and Sightplaying (Prep-6) may be taken separately if taken on an earlier test date. \$2 is deducted from the comprehensive fee for each separate exam. Score(s) must be submitted when registering for the comprehensive exam or the student will be retested.
 - b. If the student has not taken Keyboard Skills or Sightplaying exam(s) before taking the Comprehensive Piano exam, register for the Comprehensive Piano exam ONLY. Registrations and additional fees for the Keyboard Skills and Sightplying portions of the exam do not need to be submitted.
3. Each level's requirements can be found in the 2020 Piano Syllabus.
4. Students can be entered at any exam level and may skip a level (Levels Prep-9).

Special Requirements for Piano Exam Levels 10, 11, and Capstone

- A student must have a passing grade for level 10 exam before Level 11 exam may be taken.

- Repertoire for Piano Exam Level 10 & 11 must be approved by the Piano Education Programs Director prior to registration. The approval must be included as part of the online registration, or attached to the piano exam registration form if registration is submitted by mail.
- Students have two options at the highest level, Level 11 and Capstone.
- Students taking Level 11 have the option, as at previous levels, of taking the exam for the Comprehensive Certificate or the Performance Certificate. Level 11 will be offered at all exam sites/dates.
- Students taking Capstone will meet specific requirements as outlined on p. 151 of the 2020 Piano Syllabus. Level 11: Capstone is designed to showcase the student's comprehensive musicianship in a recital format and will be offered once per year.

Materials

More information about the piano exam can be found in the 2020 Piano Exam Syllabus. The following materials can be used as reference and as preparation for the exam:

- 2020 Piano Exam Syllabus
- 2021 Diversity Addendum
- 2020 Resource Reference
- 2020 Preparation Packet
- Keyboard Skills Book I (Covers Levels Preparatory-3)
- Keyboard Skills Book II (Covers Levels 4-6)
- Sight Playing Books, Levels Preparatory-6

2020 and 2030 Keyboard Skills

- Any student registered for a comprehensive piano exam or a keyboard-skills-only exam will take the 2020 keyboard skills tests.
- Teachers may request for their students to be tested using the 2030 keyboard skills exam. Teachers who wish to do so must contact and obtain permission from the Chair of the Piano Syllabus Development Committee as well as from the Piano Education Program Director.

Theory Requirements

- The MMTA Theory Exam is a separate exam requiring a separate registration and fee
- Students may take a Piano Exam without having passed the required level of theory. However, they will not be eligible for a monetary award and will receive a Performance certificate in place of a Comprehensive certificate.
- To be eligible for a monetary award and the full certificate, students need to have passed the theory prerequisite on or before the day of their comprehensive piano exam.
- The theory requirements serve as the minimum level passed. Students can pass a higher level theory to be eligible for the comprehensive certificate and monetary awards.
- The theory requirements are as follows:
 - No theory required for Preparatory Comprehensive Piano Exam and Comprehensive Piano Exam Level 1.
 - Theory Level 1 is required for Comprehensive Piano Exam Level 2.
 - Theory Level 2 is required for Comprehensive Piano Exams Level 3.
 - Theory Level 3 is required for Comprehensive Piano Exam Levels 4 and 5.
 - Theory Level 4 is required for Comprehensive Piano Exams Levels 6 and 7.
 - Theory Level 5 is required for Comprehensive Piano Exams Levels 8 and 9.
 - Theory Level 6 is required for Comprehensive Piano Exams Levels 10, 11, and Capstone.

Theory Exams



Purpose

To develop skills in music theory notation, ear training, analysis of structure and form, and integration of these elements in repertoire and keyboard facility.

Challenge Awards

Students who participate in a theory exam earn 100 challenge award points.

Locations and Deadlines

- Deadlines are generally six weeks before the exam date.
- All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the Newsletter, or contact the program director for up-to-date information.

Theory Exams			
Event Date	District	Site	Registration Deadline
10/12/2024	Virtual	Virtual/Online Judge Interaction	9/08/2024
11/09/2024	C	College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud	9/29/2024
11/16/2024	TC	University of Northwestern	10/06/2024
11/16/2024	NW	First Lutheran - Detroit Lakes	10/06/2024
11/24/2024	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	10/13/2024
12/14/2024	Virtual	Virtual/Online Judge Interaction	11/03/2024
1/25/2025	SE	Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester	12/15/2024
2/9/2025	TC	K & S Conservatory, Woodbury	12/29/2024
3/15/2025	C	St Francis Music Center, Little Falls MN	2/02/2025
3/29/2025*	TC	Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina	2/16/2025
4/26/2025	SE	Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	C	College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	SCW	Eagle Lake Lutheran Church, Willmar	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	NW	1st Lutheran - Detroit Lakes	3/16/2025
4/27/2025	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	3/16/2025
5/3/2025	NE	The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth	3/23/2025
5/10/2025	Virtual	Virtual/Online Judge Interaction	3/30/2025
8/17/2025	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	7/06/2025
8/23/2025	Virtual	Virtual/Online Judge Interaction	7/13/2025

*Tentative

Fees

Level	Fee
1	\$28
2	\$30
3	\$30
4	\$30
5	\$32
6	\$43
7	\$45
8	\$48

Procedures and Materials

1. See General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs.
2. Each level's requirements can be found in the corresponding workbooks for that level.
3. Students can be entered at any exam level and may skip a level.
4. Workbook levels 1-8 are available from the MMTA office or online at www.mnmusicteachers.com/products.
5. In 2024-25, students taking theory levels 7-8 can request to take either a first edition or a second edition exam.



Popular Styles Exams

Purpose

Students learn to: play and recognize melodic and harmonic patterns essential to popular music; listen critically to folk, blues, jazz, rock, pop, and other popular styles; sing/clap short melodies they have just heard; play solo arrangements of popular tunes; and arrange, play, and improvise from lead sheets (melody and chords).

Challenge Awards

Students receive 100 challenge award points for participating in the popular styles exam.

Locations and Deadlines

- Deadlines are generally six weeks before the exam date.
- All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the Newsletter, or contact the program director for up-to-date information.

Popular Styles Exams			
Event Date	District	Site	Registration Deadline
3/23/2025	Virtual	VIRTUAL/PRE-RECORDED	2/09/2025
5/25/2025	Virtual	VIRTUAL/PRE-RECORDED	4/13/2025
8/10/2025	Virtual	VIRTUAL/PRE-RECORDED	6/29/2025

Fees

All Popular Styles Exams (Levels 1-4) are \$45.

Procedures and Repertoire

- See General Rules and Procedures for all MMTA Programs.
- Students can be entered at any exam level, and may skip a level, depending upon a student's individual facility.
- Lead sheet performance: Students are to submit a recording. Backing track may be used as usual, but live accompaniment is also encouraged (bass & drums, rhythm guitar, or any ensemble that works with the piece).
- Lead sheet AND solo arrangements: repertoire selection is not limited to the lists on the MMTA website. Any level-appropriate arrangement or lead sheet may be used. Harmonic Patterns (Levels 2, 3, and 4): Students will no longer be required to perform triad, dominant 7th, and minor 7th chord inversions in tempo. It will be sufficient to demonstrate knowledge of the inversions by playing them accurately.
- Popular Styles Exams Workbooks levels 1, 2, 3, and 4. Students may use either the original 2014 edition or the new revised edition, published in June 2015.
- Online resources including: workbooks for teacher use, guided listening resources, repertoire lists, improvisation resources, and sample exam scripts and scoring forms.
 - Go to www.mnmusicteachers.com, then look under Programs/Popular Styles.
 - Additional resources are available to teachers: under Materials/Popular Styles.

Programs and Events – Voice and Instrumental



Voice and Instrumental Contest

Purpose

To encourage high performance standards for students and teachers in voice, guitar, organ, strings, winds, and percussion, MMTA sponsors an annual Voice & Instrumental Contest and Finale Concert. This event provides students with a written critique and winners perform at the Finale Concert.

Challenge Awards

- 100 points for participating in the Contest
- 100 points for the finale concert ensemble performance.

Location and Deadlines

- The deadline for Voice and Instrumental Young Artist Contest is **February 16, 2025**
- The Young Artist Contest and Finale Concert will be held on **March 29, 2025** at Messiah United Methodist Church in Plymouth, MN
- Note: All Contest, in-person Solo Festival, and Young Artist students will perform as an ensemble in the afternoon Voice & Instrumental Finale Concert.

Fees

- Contest Entry fee \$28
- Late Registration Fee \$50/per teacher
- Schedule Changes \$10

Procedures and Rules

1. See General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs.
2. A registration must be a student of the same teacher for the current year, for at least three months prior to the Contest date.
3. Students may not register for both the Contest and Young Artist contest in the same year performing on the same instrument.
4. Students may enter the Contest and Solo Festival *or* the Solo Festival and Young Artist contest, but they must play different repertoire for each event. Students must register for the appropriate category. (See “categories” below.)
5. Performance times are as follows:
 - a. Elementary Level: up to 2 minutes
 - b. Junior Level: up to 3 minutes
 - c. Senior and College Levels: up to 5 minutes
6. The Contest is an in-person event. No video performances are accepted.
7. Students may not perform the same repertoire in any consecutive years.
8. A student may enter only one Contest event performing with the same instrument.
9. Accompanists must follow the following rules:
 - a. The accompanist is to play only the printed music and not add “helping notes.”
 - b. Accompanist is not to coach the performer in any way, including the use of gestures.
 - c. Accompanist will allow and encourage the student to lead the performance musically and expressively.
 - d. Voice, string, and woodwind teachers may accompany their own students.

Schedule

- Contest solos will be judged in the morning.
- Voice and instrumental performers will rehearse their ensemble piece before the Finale Concert. The ensemble piece will be given to teachers after they register their student(s).
- Afternoon Finale Concert: First place winners in each age group and category (voice, guitar, organ, strings, winds, percussion) will perform a 3 minute or less solo from their performed repertoire and perform in the ensemble piece.

Category

- Category is determined by age as of September 1, 2024:

- Voice Contest:
 - Elementary: Age 12 and under
 - Junior: Ages 13-14
 - Senior A: Ages 15-16
 - Senior B: Ages 17-18
 - College: Ages 19-23
- Guitar Contest
 - Elementary: Ages 6-8
 - Junior: Ages 9-13
 - Senior: Ages 14-28
- Organ Contest
 - Junior: Ages 13-15
 - Senior: Ages 16-18
- String Contest

- Elementary A: Ages 8 and under
- Elementary B: Ages 9-10
- Junior A: Ages 11-12
- Junior B: Ages 13-14
- Senior A: Ages 15-16
- Senior B: Ages 17-18 and enrolled in high school
- College: Ages 19-23, a high school graduate or in college
- Winds and Percussion Contest
 - Elementary: Ages 12 and under
 - Junior: Ages 13-15
 - Senior: Ages 16-18

Repertoire

- The MMTA Voice & Instrumental Repertoire lists are available online at www.mnmusicteachers.com under “Materials” or from the Program Director.
 - Voice: Repertoire selection may be chosen by the student’s teacher. No musical theater, pop, or heavy opera selections are allowed. Memorization is encouraged but not required. Students may enter both Contest and Solo Festival OR Young Artist and Solo Festival, but most perform from a different genre for each.
 - Guitar: Memorization is optional, but encouraged.
 - Organ: Memorization is optional, but encouraged. Organ students may have an assistant to turn pages and/or help with the stops. The assistant may not be the student’s teacher. The Organ Contest List is a guide for repertoire selections.
 - Strings: Music must be memorized.
 - Winds and Percussion: Memorization is optional, but encouraged.
- Measures are to be numbered in both the judge’s and the accompanist’s copy.
- Students must use a legal copy of music. This includes:
 - A physical copy of the music.
 - A piece that is purchased and legally downloaded and printed.

- A piece that is from the public domain and printed.
- Photocopies of music are not allowed.
- If a student uses a piece that is purchased or used legally, downloaded, and printed, then that student must present an MMTA Contest Music Release Form.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in student disqualification.



Voice and Instrumental Solo Festival

Purpose

To encourage performance for students and teachers in voice, guitar, organ, strings, winds, and percussion, MMTA sponsors an annual Voice & Instrumental Solo Festival and Finale Concert. Solo Festival performances may be in-person or virtual submission.

Challenge Awards

- 100 points for participating in the Contest
- 100 points for the Finale Concert ensemble performance.

Location and Deadlines

- The deadline for Voice and Instrumental Young Artist Contest is **February 16, 2025**
- The Young Artist Contest and Finale Concert will be held on **March 29, 2025** at Messiah United Methodist Church in Plymouth, MN
- Virtual Solo Festival performances must be submitted to the Program Director at least 10 days before the event.
- Note: All contest, in-person Solo Festival, and Young Artist students will perform as an ensemble in the afternoon Voice & Instrumental Finale Concert.

Fees

- Solo Festival Entry fee \$28
- Late Registration Fee \$50/per teacher
- Schedule Changes \$10

Procedures and Rules

1. See General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs.
2. A registration must be a student of the same teacher for the current year, for at least three months prior to the Contest date.
3. Students may not register for both the Contest and Young Artist contest in the same year.
4. Students may enter the Contest and Solo Festival *or* the Solo Festival and Young Artist contest, but they must play different repertoire for each event.
5. There is no age or theory requirement for the solo festival, but students must register for a category. (See “categories” below.)
6. Performance times are as follows:
 - a. Elementary Level: up to 2 minutes
 - b. Junior Level: up to 3 minutes
 - c. Senior and College Levels: up to 5 minutes
7. The festival is an in-person and virtual event. The deadline for video submission is 10 days before the event.
8. Students may not perform the same repertoire in any consecutive years.
9. Accompanists must follow the following rules:
 - a. The accompanist is to play only the printed music and not add “helping notes.”
 - b. Accompanist is not to coach the performer in any way, including the use of gestures.
 - c. Accompanist will allow and encourage the student to lead the performance musically and expressively.
 - d. Voice, string, and woodwind teachers may accompany their own students.

Repertoire

- Repertoire is chosen by the teacher. The MMTA Voice & Instrumental Repertoire lists are available online at www.mnmusicteachers.com under “Materials” or from the Program Director. These lists may serve as a guide for selecting music.
 - Voice: Repertoire selection may be chosen by the student’s teacher. No musical theater, pop, or heavy opera selections are allowed. Memorization is encouraged but not required. Students may enter both Contest and Solo Festival OR Young Artist and Solo Festival, but most perform from a different genre for each.
 - Guitar: Memorization is optional, but encouraged.
 - Organ: Memorization is optional, but encouraged. Organ students may have an assistant to turn pages and/or help with the stops. The assistant may not be the student’s teacher. The Organ Contest List is a guide for repertoire selections.
 - Strings: Memorization is optional, but encouraged.
 - Winds and Percussion: Memorization is optional, but encouraged.
- Measures are to be numbered in both the judge’s and the accompanist’s copy.
- Students must use a legal copy of music. This includes:
 - A physical copy of the music.
 - A piece that is purchased and legally downloaded and printed.
 - A piece that is from the public domain and printed.
- Photocopies of music are not allowed.
- If a student uses a piece that is purchased or used legally, downloaded, and printed, then that student must present an MMTA Contest Music Release Form.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in student disqualification.



Voice and Instrumental Young Artist Contest

Purpose

To encourage high performance standards for students and teachers in voice, guitar, organ, strings, winds, and percussion, MMTA sponsors an annual Voice & Instrumental Young Artist Contest and Finale Concert. This event provides students with a written critique and winners perform at the Finale Concert.

Challenge Awards

- 200 points for participating in the Young Artist Contest.
- 100 points for the Finale Concert ensemble performance.

Location and Deadlines

- The deadline for Voice and Instrumental Young Artist Contest is **February 16, 2025**
- The Young Artist Contest and Finale Concert will be held on **March 29, 2025**
- Note: All contest, in-person Solo Festival, and Young Artist students will perform as an ensemble in the afternoon Voice & Instrumental Finale Concert.

Fees

- Young Artist Entry Fee \$60 (*Voice paid by Dr. Shirley Holzer Endowment Fund*)
- Late Registration Fee \$50/per teacher
- Schedule Changes \$10

Procedures and Rules

1. General Rules:
 - a. See "General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs." All teachers must comply with all general rules and procedures.
2. Registration Rules:
 - a. A registrant must be a student of the same teacher for the current year, for at least three months prior to the preliminary contest date.
 - b. Students may not compete in both the Contest and the Young Artist Contest in the same year on the same instrument.
 - c. Students may perform in both Solo Festival and Contest *or* Solo Festival and Young Artist Competition in the same year, but they must play different repertoire for each event.
 - d. A student may enter only one Contest event performing with the same instrument.
 - e. Students must be entered for the correct category. Categories are as follows:
 - Grades 7-9: Junior Young Artist
 - Grades 9-12: Senior Young Artist
 - Undergraduate and under the age of 23: College Young Artist
 - Note: Students in Grade 9 may compete in Junior *or* Senior Young Artist.
 - f. A student who is awarded first place may compete in the same category in subsequent years, providing they meet the grade/age requirement.
3. Repertoire:
 - a. The program must follow the repertoire requirements. (See voice and instrument-specific requirements below.)
 - b. The program must satisfy the following lengths:
 - Junior Young Artist: A solo 7-minute program.

- Senior Young Artist: A solo 15-minute program.
 - College Young Artist: A solo 25-minute program.
 - c. Students must perform different repertoire each year.
 - d. Once the student has been registered with specific repertoire, it cannot be changed or added to for any reason.
 - e. No substitutions will be allowed.
 - f. Proposed program must be sent to the appropriate Program Director by **January 31, 2025**.
 - g. Students must use a legal copy of music. This includes:
 - A physical copy of the music.
 - A piece that is purchased and legally downloaded and printed.
 - A piece that is from the public domain and printed.
 - h. Photocopies of music are not allowed.
 - i. If a student uses a piece that is purchased or used legally, downloaded, and printed, then that student must present an MMTA Contest Music Release Form.
4. Performance Rules:
- a. The Contest is an in-person event. No video performances are accepted.
 - b. Accompanists must follow the following rules:
 - The accompanist is to play only the printed music and not add “helping notes.”
 - Accompanist is not to coach the performer in any way, including the use of gestures.
 - Accompanist will allow and encourage the student to lead the performance musically and expressively.
 - Voice, string, and woodwind teachers may accompany their own students.

Schedule

- Contest solos will be judged in the morning.
- Vocal and instrumental performers will rehearse their ensemble piece before the Finale Concert. The ensemble piece will be given to teachers after they register their student(s).
- Afternoon Finale Concert: First place winners in each age group and category (voice, guitar, organ, strings, winds, percussion) will perform a 3 minute or less solo from their performed repertoire and perform in the ensemble piece.

Specific Repertoire Requirements

- Voice Repertoire
 - Select repertoire representing different periods, contrasting styles, a variety of languages (including English, German, Italian, and French), and different composers. No pop, musical theater selections, or heavy operatic arias are allowed. Junior Young Artist repertoire should be similar to levels 2-4 in the MMTA Voice Syllabus.
 - Note for College Young Artist: Repertoire guidelines are the same as High School Young Artist, with the exception that operatic arias (such as those listed in the MMTA Voice Syllabus) may be utilized, keeping in mind the student’s voice development.
 - Suggestions for appropriate voice literature may be obtained by consulting the Voice Contest List and/or Voice Syllabus. These are available online at www.mnmusicteachers.com under "Materials" or from the Program Director. Please select literature appropriate to the student’s voice development.
- Guitar Repertoire
 - At least two repertoire selections must be chosen from the Guitar Contest List online at www.mnmusicteachers.com under "Materials" or from the Program Director.
- Organ Repertoire

- Organ Junior Young Artist: No material lists are available. Please submit desired repertoire selection to the Organ Program Director for written approval by **December 1, 2024**. Include approval with student's registration.
- Organ Senior and College Young Artist: Organ Young Artist repertoire list can be found online at www.mnmusicteachers.com under "Materials" or from the Program Director. This list is a guide for repertoire selections.
- Please submit a list of each student's repertoire to the Organ Program Director for approval by **December 1, 2024**. Include approval with student's registration.
- String Repertoire
 - No material lists are available. Please submit desired repertoire selections to the Strings Program Director for written approval by **December 1, 2024**. Include approval with student's registration.
- Winds and Percussion Repertoire
 - Junior Young Artist: Flute repertoire list can be found online at www.mnmusicteachers.com under "Materials" or from the Program Director. Other winds and percussion do not have a repertoire list. Please submit desired repertoire selections to the Program Director.
 - Senior and College Young Artist: Flute repertoire list can be found online at www.mnmusicteachers.com under "Materials" or from the Program Director. Other winds and percussion do not have a repertoire list. Please submit desired repertoire selections to the Program Director.
 - Please submit desired repertoire selections to the Woodwind Program Director for written approval prior to **December 1, 2024**. Include approval with student's registration.



Comprehensive Voice and Instrumental Exams

Purpose

To develop proficiency and musicianship, the flute, guitar, violin, viola, and voice. Exams encompass several levels from beginning to advance.

Challenge Awards

Students receive 300 points for participating in a comprehensive exam.

Locations and Deadlines

- Deadlines are generally six weeks before the exam date.
- All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the Newsletter, or contact the program director for up-to-date information.
- For virtual exams, video submissions are due on the date of the exam.
- For in-person exams that are changed to virtual exams, video submissions are due one week after the original exam date.

Fees

Exam Level	Voice	Flute	Guitar	Strings
Preparatory				
1	\$33	\$56	\$26	\$33
2	\$33	\$62	\$33	\$33
3	\$38	\$67	\$38	\$33
4	\$38	\$72	\$45	\$38
5	\$45	\$78	\$51	\$38
6		\$83	\$56	\$45
7		\$88	\$62	\$45
8			\$67	\$51
9			\$72	
10			\$78	
11			\$83	
12			\$88	

Procedures and Rules

1. See General Rules & Procedures for all MMTA Programs.
2. Each Voice & Instrumental level's requirements can be found in the corresponding syllabus. Syllabi are available online at www.mnmusicteachers.com or from the MMTA office.

Programs and Events – All Instruments



MMTA Student Composition Contest

Purpose

To encourage students to learn about the art of music composition and creatively apply the principles learned in music study.

Challenge Awards

Students who enter a piece in the composition contest earn 100 challenge award points.

Location and Deadlines

- Deadline March 1, 2025
- Winners Recital: TBD (Exact date and time will be provided to winning students following the completion of judging.)

Event Registration and Results

- Register online at www.mnmusicteachers.com and upload composition (and optional digital recording or video), or send registration form, composition(s), and appropriate fee to the MMTA Office (and optional recording on a CD).
- CDs will not be returned.
- Teachers should expect to receive mailed results 6-8 weeks after the submission deadline.

Fees

- Primary \$27
- Elementary \$35
- Junior \$40
- Senior \$50

Procedures and Rules

Failure to comply with these rules can result in student disqualification.

1. See General Rules and Procedures for all MMTA programs.
2. Students must register for the appropriate category. Categories are as follows:
 - a. Primary: Grades 3 and under
 - b. Elementary: Grades 4-6
 - c. Junior High: Grades 7-9
 - d. Senior High: Grades 10-12
3. Only one entry per student.
4. The entrant certifies that the composition is an original work, and that the score was produced by the entrant.
5. Compositions submitted in previous years may not be re-entered.
6. Compositions may be written for more than one medium, but for no more than 10 performers.
7. Multi-movement works are allowable.
8. Submissions must be less than 10 minutes in length.
9. The score must follow these presentation requirements:
 - a. The score must be computer generated using music notation software.
 - b. Cover art should not be included.
 - c. Measures of the composition must be numbered at the beginning of each system on the left-hand side of the page.

- d. All materials must be labeled with the name of the composition and level (Primary, Elementary, Junior High, or Senior High).
 - e. The score must not include the name, photo, or biography of the student, or the name of the student's teacher.
10. No change may be made to the composition once it has been submitted.
 11. If submitting by mail, compositions of one page or those that have multiple pages that are not bound should be placed in a mailing envelope. A file folder may be used. Write the level and title of the piece on the outside of this envelope or folder. Do not submit loose pages.
 12. If submitting electronically, the score must be in PDF format.
 13. There is no theory requirement for this contest.

Student Composition Festival



Purpose

To encourage students to learn about the art of music composition and creatively apply the principles learned in music study.

Challenge Awards

Students who enter a piece in the composition festival earn 100 challenge award points.

Deadline

March 1, 2025

Event Registration and Results

- Register online at www.mnmusicteachers.com and upload composition (and optional digital recording or video), or send registration form, composition(s), and appropriate fee to the MMTA Office (and optional recording on a CD).
- CDs will not be returned.
- Teachers should expect to receive mailed results 6-8 weeks after the submission deadline.

Fees

- Primary \$27
- Elementary \$35
- Junior \$40
- Senior \$50

Procedures and Rules

Failure to comply with these rules can result in student disqualification.

1. See General Rules and Procedures for all MMTA programs.
2. Only one entry per student.
3. The entrant certifies that the composition is an original work, and that the score was produced by the entrant.
4. Compositions submitted in previous years may not be re-entered.
5. Compositions may be written for more than one medium, but for no more than 10 performers.
6. Multi-movement works are allowable.
7. Submissions must be less than 10 minutes in length.
8. Students may submit a score, a recording, or both.
9. If a score is submitted, it does not need to be computer-generated but should be easy to read.
10. There is no theory requirement for the composition festival.

MMTA Member Composition Submissions (for Contest and Festival)



Purpose

To diversify the MMTA Piano Contest and Piano Solo Festival repertoire list and provide more opportunities for MMTA members and students.

Deadline

May 1, 2025

Registration

Submit PDF online at www.mnmusicteachers.com/piano-contest-piano-solo-festival-member-composition-submission-form

Fees

MMTA Member Composition Submission is free for all MMTA members.

Procedures and Rules

1. See General Rules and Procedures for all MMTA programs.
2. The composer must be a current member of MMTA.
3. The composer will retain ownership and copyright to their music.
4. The composition must be written for solo piano.
5. The submission must be a computer-generated copy.
6. The composition must be easily available for purchase in printed and/or electronic format.
7. The composition can be written in any style.
8. Include tempo markings and performance notes.
9. The composition can be written at any technical level.
10. Indicate Age Category (Pri, INA, SRA) at the time of submission.
11. Duration should not exceed:
 - Pre-Pri, Pri, JRA, JRB - 2 minutes
 - INA - 3 minutes
 - INB - 4 minutes
 - SRA, SRB - 5 minutes
12. Each year, the Minnesota district in charge of selecting the repertoire, the Piano Contest Committee, and the Piano Exam Syllabus Committee will be able to access the submitted pieces.
13. Compositions submitted before June 1st will be considered for the MMTA Piano Contest and Piano Solo Festival repertoire list in two years. All submitted compositions will be added to a library/repository of submission and will be available for future repertoire considerations.



Teacher's Original Duet Composition Contest

Purpose

To encourage MMTA teachers to explore the process of music composition and to expand the knowledge base they share with their students, each year MMTA holds a Teacher Original Duet Composition Contest. Winning composition will be programmed at that year's Honors Concert.

Deadline

October 1, 2024

Registration

Submit PDF online at www.mnmusicteachers.com

Fees

The teacher's original duet composition contest is free to all MMTA members.

Procedures and Rules

1. See General Rules and Procedures for all MMTA programs.
2. Duets should display creativity and contain interesting parts for both secondo and primo, both in terms of melodic and rhythmic content, techniques, and construction.
3. The composition should be appropriate for a large ensemble and for students new to performing in a conducted ensemble.
4. The composition should be appropriate for the ages of the performers and should have an audience appeal.
5. The piece length should run between 1-3 minutes.
6. Compositions may be suitable for Primary, Intermediate, or Advanced. The musical and technical demands of the duet should be equivalent to an average solo piano piece at the following levels (see p. 8-10 in the 2020 Piano Syllabus for keyboard skills requirements for each level):
 - PRI = Prep-1
 - JRA = 1-3
 - JRB = 2-5
 - INA = 4-7
 - INB = 6-9
 - SRA = 8-9
 - SRB = 9-11
7. Compositions from previous years may be resubmitted, provided they have not been performed in past Honors Concerts.
8. Scores must be presented with these guidelines:
 - Ensembles should be submitted as a PDF in open score format. Winning compositions will need to be published side-by-side.
 - Age Category should be listed (PRI, JRA, JRB, etc).
 - Removed all identification information. The Committee Chair will ensure each score is connected with the proper entrant.
 - Place the title of the work on each page of the score.
 - Measures must be numbered and aligned between primo and secondo.
 - Include tempo markings and performance notes.

- You may send a recording of the duet as you would like it performed.

Contest Winners

Contest Winners Agree to:

1. Make arrangements to have copies available at any or all of these music retailers: Groth, Schmitt Music, and www.arrangeme.com, so winners and alternates can easily purchase copies.
2. Publish the ensemble in a side-by-side format.
3. Submit publishing information and needed copies to the MMTA Office no later than February 1st.
4. Provide a copy for the conductor and any other copies needed by MMTA.
5. Provide appropriate cover art prior to printing.
6. Be present at the 3rd Honors Concert Rehearsal to meet students and autograph copies of the duet.
7. Be present at the Honors Concert to be acknowledged on stage with the performers.

Ensemble Festival



Purpose

To provide students with the opportunity to make music as part of an ensemble. An ensemble consists of at least two keyboard, voice, and/or instrumental students.

Challenge Awards

- 100 points per student per registered ensemble.
- Limit is 200 points per student per year.

Locations and Deadlines

- Deadlines are generally six weeks before the exam date.
- All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the Newsletter, or contact the program director for up-to-date information.

Ensemble Festival			
Event Date	District	Site	Registration Deadline
11/3/2024	TC	Living Faith Church , Circle Pines	9/22/2024
11/3/2024	SCW	Eagle Lake Lutheran Church , Willmar	9/22/2024
11/10/2024	TC	Prospect Park United Methodist Church , Minneapolis	9/29/2024
11/16/2024	TCE	Mount Calvary Lutheran Church , Eagan	10/06/2024
11/16/2024	C	Celebration Lutheran Church , Sartell	10/06/2024
11/16/2024	SE	Unitarian Universalist Church , Rochester	10/06/2024
11/17/2024	WA	Calvary Lutheran Church , Alexandria	10/06/2024
11/23/2024	TC	Schmitt Music , Bloomington	10/13/2024
11/24/2024	TC	Schmitt Music , Bloomington	10/13/2024
2/23/2025	Virtual	VIRTUAL/PRE-RECORDED Ensemble Festival	1/12/2025

Fees

\$30 Per ensemble

Rules and Procedures

1. See General Rules and Procedures for all MMTA programs.
2. Generally, ensemble length is 1-4 minutes. An ensemble may not exceed 8 minutes.
3. At least one member of each ensemble must be a student registered by an MMTA member.
 - a. Teachers may only register students in their own teaching area. For example: a teacher who teaches only voice is to register ensembles with voice students only.
 - b. The MMTA teacher will coach the group prior to the performance.
4. A student may participate in two ensembles if desired. Registration fees are due for each ensemble.
5. A teacher may accompany an ensemble if it includes at least two of their students.
6. One acoustic piano will be provided unless otherwise notified. Please verify with the Site Administrator in advance if a second piano is needed. Also, indicate the need for two pianos at the time of registration.

7. Contact the Site Administrator prior to registration if an ensemble wishes to use electronic instruments and/or other equipment to ensure apparatus will be permitted and to allow for set-up time.
8. Voice and instrumental ensembles are to provide their own music stands, as needed.
9. Performers may provide their own page turners.
10. Requests for schedule changes received up until one week prior to the festival date may be granted at the discretion of the Site Administrator. A fee of \$10 per ensemble must be paid directly to the Site Administrator before participation is allowed.
11. Concert attire is expected. Attire that matches the ensemble piece's theme is welcome.
12. There are no repertoire restrictions. However, no repertoire substitutions will be allowed after a registration has been submitted.
13. Playing from memory is encouraged but not required.
14. There is no theory prerequisite to participate in the Ensemble Festival.

Logowear Design Contest



Purpose

Students are invited to design a logo for MMTA. The winning design will be printed on MMTA t-shirts. “Logowear” items will be sold to thousands of MMTA contest, exams, and convention participants during the next calendar year.

Deadline

October 1, 2024

Registration

Submit a digital file of artwork (i.e. JPG, PNG, etc.) online at www.mnmusicteachers.com OR submit artwork by mail to: MMTA Office ▪ 10800 Lyndale Ave. S, Ste. 120 ▪ Bloomington, MN 55420

Fees

Free to all students whose teacher is a current MMTA member.

Rules and Procedures

1. Limit of 1 submission per student per year.
2. Content of artwork should promote music and musical creativity, including piano, voice, and all instruments.
3. If desired, instruction as to where the artwork is to be placed on the apparel items and totes may be included with design submission. For example: “please place the artwork on the back of the t-shirt instead of the front.”
4. Keep the design simple so it looks clear no matter what size it is when printed.
5. Artwork can be hand-drawn or computer designed. (If hand-drawn, please use black ink). Must be original and not a reproduction of pre-existing or trademarked logos from another company or artist.
6. Must include the words “MMTA [current year]” noticeably within the design.
7. Musical symbols, words, instruments, or an abstract design may be used. The shape of the state of Minnesota may also be incorporated into the design.
8. The design must contain the student’s initials somewhere above/below the design.
9. Colors in design need to be limited to two (black lines are considered a color).

Store

To purchase logowear, go to: <https://minnesota-music-teachers-association.square.site/s/shop>

Music Bridges



Purpose

Music Bridges is open to students of any instrument or voice. It provides a critiqued forum where students can present a performance that features high achievement tailored to each student's individual abilities and interests. This program is one in which students can explore and experience all areas of music and relationships between music and the other arts.

Challenge Awards

Students earn 200 points for participating in Music Bridges.

Location and Deadlines

- Deadlines are generally six weeks before the exam date.
- All locations and dates are subject to change. Visit the MMTA website, consult the Newsletter, or contact the program director for up-to-date information.

Music Bridges			
Event Date	District	Site	Registration Deadline
11/9/2024	C	College of St. Benedict's, St. Cloud	9/29/2024
11/16/2024	NW	1st Lutheran - Detroit Lakes	10/06/2024
11/24/2024	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	10/13/2024
12/07/2024	Virtual	Virtual/On-Line with Judge	10/27/2024
2/22/2025	Virtual	Virtual/On-Line with Judge	1/12/2025
3/15/2025	C	St Francis Music Center, Little Falls MN	2/02/2025
4/13/2025	TC	Center for Performing Arts, Minneapolis	3/02/2025
4/26/2025	C	College of St. Benedict's, St. Cloud	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	SCW	Eagle Lake Lutheran Church, Willmar	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	TC	Hastings Arts Center	3/16/2025
4/26/2025	NW	First Lutheran Church,	3/16/2025
4/27/2025	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	3/16/2025
5/3/2024	NE	The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth	3/23/2025
5/3/2025	TC	St Anthony Park UCC, St Paul	3/23/2025
5/18/2025	TC	St Joseph's School of Music, St. Paul	4/06/2025
8/17/2025	WA	Carlson Music Center, Alexandria	7/06/2025

Fees

- Short (20-minute program) \$32
- Medium (30-minute program) \$48
- Long (40-minute program) \$64

Rules and Procedures

1. Program levels are defined by their length:

- a. Short: Maximum student presentation time is 12 minutes for a 20-minute program
 - b. Medium: Maximum student presentation time is 20 minutes for a 30-minute program
 - c. Long: Maximum student presentation time is 30 minutes for a 40-minute program
2. There is no age limit or theory requirement.
 3. One acoustic piano will be available unless notified otherwise.
 4. Memorization is optional for all pieces. A second copy of the music should be provided for the judge with measures numbered. The judge will speak with the student at the event, asking questions and discussing the projects.
 5. All parts of the program need to be related to music in some way.
 - a. The five events of the program may be, but do not have to be, related to each other.
 - b. Presentations from other areas of the arts are encouraged, but the student must articulate how their project relates to music.
 6. Audience members are welcome to observe the student performance.
 7. Students are encouraged to present their own work in a polished manner.
 - a. For artwork, this means matting paintings and drawings.
 - b. For dancers and actors, this means wearing appropriate costumes.
 - c. For written work, this means neat handwriting or a typed format with work in a binder or folder.
 - d. Be creative and have fun!
 8. Students must select Five Events:
 - a. 2 required pieces or movements selected from standard or quality teaching literature, which must be performed in their entirety. Repeats may be omitted.
 - b. 3 optional events of the sections may be other musical selections, poetry, dance, a piece of art, etc. – any art form the student would like to use or has created themselves.

Materials

For more information about the Music Bridges program, download a free booklet at:

www.mnmusicteachers.com/program/music-bridges OR contact the MMTA Office to receive a booklet in hard copy format.