

NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
PIANO TEACHERS SECTION
Piano Duet Performance Festival
Regulations
Inaugural year, 2016-17

I. DISTRICT PIANO DUET FESTIVALS

A. Purpose

1. To promote and encourage piano ensemble performance.
2. To provide students and teachers a means of receiving constructive criticism by competent judges.
3. To stimulate and to recognize constant growth in musicianship and sight-reading.
4. To provide students and teachers a means of hearing the work done by others.

B. Eligibility

Contestants must be elementary, middle school, or senior high school students, ages 6 through 18. Students out of high school cannot compete.

C. Competition Categories

The Elementary, Junior and Senior levels are determined by the age of the older duet performer.

Elementary Piano Duet – Ages 6 through 10 as of January 1 of the competition year.
The older student in the elementary Category must be between ages 6 and 10.

Junior Piano Duet – Ages 11 through 14 as of January 1 of the competition year. *The older student in the Junior Category must be between ages 11 and 14.*

Senior Piano Duet – Ages 15 through 18 as of January 1 of the competition year.
The older student in the Senior Category must be between ages 15 and 18.

D. Performance Time

Elementary is a maximum of 8 minutes

Junior is a maximum of 10 minutes

Senior is a maximum of 15 minutes

E. Repertoire Performance Guidelines

1. Open Repertoire: Contest selections must include two or more contrasting Duets.
2. Transcriptions and arrangements are allowed.
3. Duet members are encouraged to switch parts for at least one selection.
4. Memorization is NOT required
5. Teachers are encouraged to use editions of the highest quality.
6. All entrants must abide by the federal Copyright Law. Photocopies are strongly discouraged. Entrants using photocopies or PDFs downloaded from the Internet must sign a Release Form verifying that they have permission to this music. Release Forms are provided by District and State Chairpersons or found on the NCMTA website
7. Measures must be numbered at the beginning of each system.
8. Entrants must provide the judge(s) one score for each work performed.
9. Entrants may use a page turner.
10. There is no minimum time limit
11. Programmed music may exceed maximum time limit. The performance will be stopped when maximum time is reached (does not affect results)
12. Entrant chooses first selection; judge determines remaining order of performance.

F. Ratings

Each duet team will be assigned an honor rating as follows:

HIGHEST HONORS - Awarded to those Duet teams who play with meticulous accuracy in the correct style of the composer and with imagination. Duet teams earning a highest honors will receive a gold seal on their certificate.

MERIT - Awarded to Duet teams for accuracy and observation of details of the score. (This is definitely an honor rating.) Duet teams earning a merit rating will receive a silver seal on their certificate.

G. Regulations

1. A teacher may enter any number of students.
2. Duet teams may be from two teachers. Team teaching is encouraged.
3. Students may enter both the NCMTA solo and Duet contests.
4. No one may play for criticism only.
5. Contestants will be expected to register and participate in contests within their own district except where travel will be shorter to another contest, or where a conflict in date might be avoided. Where such a change may seem necessary, the district chairperson to whom they are applying will rule on their acceptance, dependent on time and space available. In no case may a duet team be permitted to enter more than one District PCF or to switch districts after initial registration has been submitted.
6. Depending on the size of the room, the District Chairperson has the option of opening the competition to the public.

H. Treatment of Judges: Etiquette and Decorum

Judges' decisions are final. Initiating discussion with a judge - by a student, parent or teacher - questioning comments or ratings from the Festival may result in penalties to the student or teacher for future Festivals. A committee comprised of the Piano Section Chair, the State Contest Director and the District or State Festival Chair will be formed to address any grievances filed against or by the judge.

I. Judges' Policies

1. The Piano Performance Festival Director does what is necessary to obtain qualified piano duet judges as noted by the piano section.
2. The Judges fee is \$45 per hour.

J. District Registration

1. Registration deadline: Registration must be completed by teacher with fees online at the NCMTA website, FIVE weeks prior to the date of the first District PCF. See the NCMTA website for current dates. In the case where a teacher has students registering in more than one district, separate registrations and payment must be submitted to each district or state chairperson.
2. Withdrawal deadline: Notice of withdrawal must be given to the District Chairperson 2 1/2 weeks prior to the date of the first District PCF in order to receive a refund.
3. To determine your district, see the District PCF Locations listed in the fall NCMTA bulletin.
4. Teachers may submit time requests with the registration form. However, time requests are not guaranteed.
5. No time requests may be made after the District postmark deadline.

K. District Fees

1. \$30.00 – Member Teacher duet team entry fee. If the duet team is from two teachers, at least one of the teachers must be a member for the member entry fee.
2. \$60.00 – Non-member Teacher duet team entry fee

L. District Contest-Festival Locations

(Listed by counties)

1. Albemarle: Anson, Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Rowan, Stanley, Union
2. Charlotte: Mecklenburg
3. Greenville: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Currituck, Craven, Dare, Edgecomb, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Lenior, Martin, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrell, Washington, Wilson
4. Lumberton: Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland
5. Mars Hill: Alexander, Allegheny, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey
6. Raleigh: Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne
7. Wilmington: Brunswick, Duplin, Jones, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender
8. Winston-Salem/Greensboro: Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin

II. STATE PIANO DUET FESTIVALS

Junior and Senior Piano Duet Performance District Winners earning a “Highest Honors” rating will advance to the State Piano Duet Festival Competition.

A limited number of the Piano Duet State “Highest Honors” winners will be selected by the judges to perform at the State Conference Piano Duet Festival Honors Recital. The contest director, on a percentage basis at the two State contest sites, will determine the specific number of selected Superiors.

State fees:

1. \$30.00 – Member Teacher duet team entry fee. If the duet team is from two teachers, at least one of the teachers must be a member for the member entry fee.
2. \$60.00 – Non-member Teacher duet team entry fee

NCMTA ad Hoc Piano Duet Committee:

Paul Stewart, Chair, Pamela Mullins, Ex officio, Kerry Henry, Tonya Kirk, Karen Beres