

NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
PIANO TEACHERS SECTION
Piano Performance Festival
Regulations

I. DISTRICT PIANO PERFORMANCE FESTIVALS

A. Purpose

1. To provide students and teachers a means of receiving constructive criticism by competent judges.
2. To stimulate and to recognize constant growth.
3. 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. (See C. 3 below.) Students out of high school cannot compete.

C. Regulations

1. Students must perform works selected from the current official contest music list which is published annually in the May issue of THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHER and on the web at www.ncmta.org. **No changes in pieces will be allowed after registrations have been submitted.**
2. Teachers are always encouraged to use editions of the highest quality. All students/teachers using electronic resources must be sure to have read and filled out completely the MTNA Competitions Music Release Form (*). A fully filled out copy of this MTNA Competitions Music Release Form must be presented at registration of any NCMTA function in which a student is using such copies of music, otherwise the student will be disqualified and unable to participate.

*Forms provided by District and State Chairpersons or found on the NCMTA website

3. On the basis of music chosen, any contestant may enter either the Junior or Senior competition, but not both. Since there is an overlap in the difficulty of the Junior and Senior lists, the teacher will determine which level each student should enter.
4. A teacher may enter any number of students.
5. The Piano Performance Festival (PPF) list consists of 4 entry levels: (Junior A, Junior B, Senior A, and Senior B). Students must perform a piece from each of the three musical periods (I, II, and III). At least TWO of the compositions a student plays MUST be from the level at which the student is entering. The third composition may be from an ADJACENT level, either above or below. For example, a student entering at Junior Level B may play one composition from Senior Level A, or a student entering at Senior Level A may play one composition from Junior Level B.

When entering students in the PPF, the teacher MUST indicate the entry level of the student.

6. Students entering at Junior Level A will not advance beyond the District PPF.
7. Students earning a "Highest Honors" rating at Junior Level B, Senior Level A, and Senior Level B may advance to the State PPF.
8. NO ONE MAY PLAY FOR CRITICISM ONLY. Each soloist will be assigned an honor rating as follows:
 - a. Highest Honors - Awarded to those students who play with meticulous accuracy in the correct style of the composer and with imagination. Students earning a "Highest Honors" rating will receive a gold seal on their certificates.
 - b. Merit - Awarded for accuracy and observation of details of the score. (This is definitely an meritorious rating.) Students earning a "Merit" rating will receive a silver seal on their certificates.
9. Contestants will be expected to register and participate in PPF 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 student be

permitted to enter more than one District PPF or to switch districts after initial registration has been submitted.

10. Performance

- a. Students must number the measures of their printed scores. Numbering the first measure of each line is sufficient.
- b. Da Capo repeats are expected. Extensive repeats should be avoided.
- c. All contestants must perform from memory.
- d. Suggested editions are given, but any complete standard edition may be used.
- e. Timing: 8 minutes (Jr. A), 10 minutes (Jr. B) 12 minutes (Sr. A), 15 minutes (Sr. B)
- f. Judges are permitted to stop a contestant at the time limit.

11. Depending on the size of the room, it is up to the District Chairperson to have the room open.

12. Junior Level B, Senior Level A, and Senior Level B piano students who receive a rating of "Highest Honors" in the current year in District PPF may participate in the State PPF.

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

D. Judges

1. The PPF Director does what is necessary to obtain qualified judges as noted by the piano section.
2. Judges fee is \$45 per hour with a minimum of \$225, pending approval by the NCMTA Executive Board.

E. District Registration

1. **Registration deadline: Registration must be completed with fees online at the NCMTA website, FIVE weeks prior to the date of the first District PPF.** See the NCMTA 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 PPF, if a refund of fees is expected.
3. To determine your district, see the District PPF Locations listed in the fall NCMT.
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 deadline

F. District Fees

1. **\$20.00 for each Junior contestant.**
2. **\$20.00 for each Senior contestant.**

G. District Piano Performance 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 PERFORMANCE FESTIVALS

A. Purpose

1. To give those students who are winners of “Highest Honors” ratings in the District PPFs an opportunity to play again for constructive evaluation.
2. To give the students a chance to hear other honored pianists throughout the state.

B. Eligibility

1. Students may be a Junior B level or above.
2. Students must have made a “Highest Honors” rating at the District PPF in the current year.

C. Regulations

1. NO ONE MAY PLAY FOR CRITICISM ONLY. Each soloist will be assigned an honor rating.
2. All contestants must perform from memory.
3. Students entering at Junior Level B, Senior Level A, and Senior Level B who received a “Highest Honors” rating at the District PPF may advance to the State PPF where they will be judged.
4. All students who proceed to the State PPF will play THE SAME THREE compositions that were performed at the District Level.
5. Depending on the size of the studio, it is up to the State Chairperson to have the room open.
6. Students receiving a “ Highest Honors” at the State PPF will be invited to perform at the State Conference.
7. Judges’ decisions are final. Initiating discussion with a judge - by a student, parent or teacher - questioning comments or ratings from the Performance Festival may result in penalties to the student or teacher for future Piano Performance Festivals. A committee comprised of the Piano Section Chair, the State Performance Director and the District or State Piano Performance Festival Chair will be formed to address any grievances filed against or by the judge.

D. Judges

1. The PPF Director does what is necessary to obtain qualified judges as noted by the piano section.
2. Judges fee is \$45 per hour with a minimum of \$225, pending approval by the NCMTA Executive Board.

E. State Registration

1. Registration: Secure a registration code from your District Chairperson on the day of the District PPF.
2. Registration deadline: Registration must be completed with fees, online on the NCMTA website no later than 4 days following the last district contest date.
3. Withdrawal deadline: Notification of withdrawal must be no later than 1 week prior to the State PCF if a refund is expected.
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 State deadline

F. State Fees

1. \$ 20.00 for each Junior contestant.
2. \$ 20.00 for each Senior contestant.

G. State Performance Festivals Locations

1. Eastern part of the state
 - a. Greenville District
 - b. Lumberton District
 - c. Raleigh District
 - d. Wilmington District
2. Western part of the state

- a. Albemarle District
- b. Charlotte District
- c. Mars Hill District
- d. Winston-Salem/Greensboro District

H. The March or April date of the State PPFs (East and West) will be determined by the PPF Director and the State Chairpersons.