

COMPETITIONS INFORMATION & GUIDELINES 2009-2010

MTNA Competitions

The MTNA national program of competitions for brass, woodwind and string instruments, piano, voice, chamber music, and composition begins at the state level. Students aged 11 through 26 have the opportunity to compete in MTNA competitions for generous cash prizes offered at the national level. The three age categories are Junior (ages 11-14), Senior (ages 15-18), and Young Artist (ages 19-26). The MTNA Composition Competition also offers an elementary category open to students ages 5-10.

All rules can be found in the AMT magazine.

State winners of MTNA competitions advance to the East Central Division competition and then to the national competition held during the MTNA National Convention each spring.

To enter the MTNA national competitions, apply online. The 2009 application deadline is September 15, 2009. The Illinois state-level auditions will be held November 6-7 at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL. Competition information is published annually in the April/May issue of *The American Music Teacher*, the publication of the Music Teachers National Association. For current information including competition dates, guidelines and online application procedures please visit the MTNA website at www.mtna.org and click on "Programs," selecting "Competitions" in the pull-down menu.

Dates and Deadlines for 2009 competitions:

Application deadline for all competitions:

MTNA Competitions: Online application completed by September 15, 2009

ISMATA District Competitions: Application postmarked by September 15, 2009

ISMATA District Competitions will be held in October, dates to be announced by local district chair, and on the ISMATA website

ISMATA and MTNA state-level competitions will be held during the ISMATA 2009 Conference, November 6-7, 2009, at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL.

East Central Division Competitions date and location TBA.

MTNA National Finals will be held during the MTNA 2010 National Conference, March 20-24, 2010, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

ISMATA Student Competitions

In addition to the competitions of MTNA, which have a national scope, the Illinois State Music Teachers Association (ISMATA) sponsors separate competitions for elementary, junior, senior, and collegiate students. Requirements for ISMATA sponsored competitions are established by the ISMATA Board, and each competition is administered by a State Competition Chair under the supervision of a State Coordinator.

Many local associations of ISMATA also sponsor a variety of competitions and festivals for the students of their members. These are local activities that do not progress to the district or state levels.

Illinois is divided into five geographical districts. Each district conducts its own competition coordinated by the District Chair (see bottom of this document for list of District Chairs and their addresses and contact info.) who determines the location, date, and time of the competition. District competitions are held in

October, no less than 2 weeks prior to the State Conference. All of the Illinois district competitions are conducted under the same rules and guidelines.

ISMATA-sponsored competitions begin at the district level, with junior and senior winners advancing to the state finals competition that occurs during the ISMATA Annual Conference in November. Elementary and Duet competitions are offered only at the district level and winners do not advance to the state. Collegiate competitions occur only at the state level.

Any current ISMATA member with MTNA membership paid up to date as of September 15, 2009 may enter students. Students must have studied at least 6 months with their teacher prior to September 2009.

To enter, students apply using the ISMATA Competition Entry form. This form is available online (www.ismta.org and click on “Competitions”) and will also be printed in the ISMATA Summer Newsletter (e-mailed to all current ISMATA members in early July). Competitors must perform in either the district of their residence or the membership district of their teacher. The application postmark deadline is September 15, 2009.

Students who enter an ISMATA competition cannot also enter an MTNA competition at the same level.

Facilities permitting, ISMATA competitions are open to the general public. Teachers and competitors are encouraged to invite other students, family and friends.

Contestants must bring one set of original music to the competitions. No photocopies will be given to the judges.

Accompanists may use photocopies if the original music is also on the piano.

In a District competition students will be awarded a 1, 2, or 3 rating, and students receiving a 1 will advance to the state level. Multiple winners (rating of 1) may be declared in a competition. Each district may advance a maximum of three (3) winners to an ISMATA state level competition. It is not mandatory that “1’s” be awarded should performances not meet the judge(s) expectations. Decisions of competition judges are final.

District winners advancing to the state competition may not change their repertoire between the district and the state competitions.

State winners are presented in a recital at the State Conference. All participants receive a certificate and comments from the judge(s). Winners are listed in the *ISMATA Newsletter*. Contestants who win at the state competition are not eligible to compete in the same level (ie, junior or senior) in subsequent years.

Following the state competition ISMATA awards a \$100 cash prize to the first-place Illinois state winner of each Junior and Senior solo competition, including both the ISMATA competitions and the MTNA competitions. The winner of the ISMATA Collegiate competition receives a \$250 cash prize.

ISMATA Elementary Piano Competition

For piano

Age: 9-11 years old as of January 1, 2010

Teachers note: the age requirements overlap for the elementary and junior piano competitions, please choose the appropriate event for your 11-year old piano student(s)

This program allows students to compete at the District level only. It is designed to allow the younger students to perform and become better acquainted with the state competitions. Each district may choose 1 or 2 exceptionally talented elementary students to perform at the State Conference in their own STAR

Recital. The choice of whether to hold an elementary competition is left to each individual district. Contact your District Chair for details.

Repertoire: Each student will perform 2 contrasting pieces. No minimum time is required and pieces must be memorized.

Maximum judging time: 6 minutes

Entrance fee: \$20.00

ISMTA Duet Competition – Elementary Division, Junior Division, and Senior Division

For piano, 4 hands only.

Age: 9-10 years old for elementary, 11-14 years old for junior, 15–18 years old for senior, as of January 1, 2010. If both participants are not in the same age group, they will be judged at the level of the older student.

This program allows students to compete at the District level only. The choice of whether to hold an elementary duet competition is left to each individual district. Contact your District Chair for details.

Repertoire: The duet team will perform two contrasting selections and must switch parts between selections. No minimum time required and memorization is not required.

Maximum judging time: 15 minutes

Entrance fee: \$15.00 per team

ISMTA Junior Performance Competition

For piano, strings, brass, woodwinds

Age: 11-14 years old as of January 1, 2010

Teachers note: the age requirements overlap for the elementary and junior piano competitions, please choose the appropriate event for your 11-year old piano student(s)

Repertoire: At least two compositions from contrasting periods (baroque, classical, romantic, impressionist, or contemporary). No minimum performance time is required.

Additional requirements by instrument:

Piano: No concertos. All works must be memorized

Strings, Brass and Woodwinds: Concertos are acceptable but not required. One work must be memorized.

Maximum judging time: Piano 15 minutes; Strings, Woodwinds and Brass 20 minutes including tuning.

Entrance fee: \$40.00

ISMTA Senior Performance Competition

For piano, voice, woodwinds, brass, strings

Age: 15-18 years old as of January 1, 2010.

Repertoire: Three selections from three contrasting periods (baroque, classical, romantic, impressionist, or contemporary). No minimum performance time is required.

Additional requirements by instrument:

Piano: No concertos. All works must be memorized.

Strings, Brass and Woodwinds: Concertos are acceptable but not required. One work must be memorized.

Voice: One selection in English, one selection in Italian, and the other selection from the standard repertoire in any language other than English or Italian. All works must be memorized.

Maximum judging time: Voice and Piano 20 minutes; Strings, Brass and Woodwinds 25 minutes, including tuning.

Entrance fee: \$50.00

ISMTA Collegiate Performance Competition

For piano

Age: 19-26 years old as of January 1, 2010

Repertoire: Three selections from three contrasting periods (baroque, classical, romantic, impressionist, or contemporary). Minimum performance time 15 minutes. All works must be memorized.

Maximum judging time: 20 minutes

Entrance fee: \$75

Overview of the ISMTA and MTNA Competitions

ISMTA

District level
Apply through ISMTA District Chairs
Application deadline is 9-15-2009

State Level
Auditions at ISMTA State Conference
November 6-7, 2009
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL

ISMTA Collegiate only:
Send application directly to
Collegiate Competitions Coordinator:
Tammie Walker
Western Illinois University
School of Music
Browne Hall 219, 1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 298-1237
TL-Walker4@wiu.edu

MTNA

<no District auditions, begins at State, below>

State Level
Apply online via MTNA website by 9-15-2009
Auditions at ISMTA State Conference
November 6-7, 2009
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL

East Central Division Level
Date/location tba

National Level
March 20-24, 2010
Albuquerque, NM

Illinois District Chairs

East District Chair

Rochelle Sennet
University of Illinois
2134 Music Building
1114 West Nevada Street
Urbana, IL 61801
217-418-2057
bsennet2@illinois.edu

Northeast District Chair

Jennifer Cohen
13 Old Barn Rd.
Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047
(847) 438-7971
jicohen1@aol.com

Northwest District Chair

JeongSoo Kim
2048 Crossing Ln
Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 901-2063
jeongtheory@yahoo.com

South District Chair

Huei Li Chin
P.O. Box 1771
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Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1771
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West District Chair

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