

PMTNM Handbook, Section IX

PMTNM STUDENT HONORS AUDITIONS

The PMTNM Student Honors Auditions are held at the District and State levels and provide students with an unparalleled opportunity and incentive for musical growth and understanding. Students perform in a competitive setting for qualified and impartial judges who provide careful and constructive written comments. The program was designed to encourage and inspire students to diligently study, prepare, and present recital caliber repertoire in a polished public performance. The repertoire, dates, and general rules are determined by the PMTNM Student Honors Committee.

ELIGIBILITY

A. Entrants must be studying with a teacher who is a member in good standing of PMTNM. The teacher must pay his/her MTNA dues by the deadline for entering the MTNA performance competitions even though this is a state audition. The deadline is shown in the spring issue of the *American Music Teacher* magazine and at www.mtna.org.

B. Non-PMTNM members may enter students with the payment of a \$25 surcharge fee that will be added to both the District and State Honors Audition fees. Should a student of a non-member advance to the State Honors Auditions, the entering teacher will also be required to pay the Non-Member Conference Registration Fee.

C. Students may enter both the Honors Auditions and the Junior/Senior or Young Artist Competitions the same year, but on different instruments. Students may also enter two categories in the Honors Auditions in the same year on different instruments. No contestant will be allowed to enter on more than two instruments.

D. First-Place State Honors Audition winners may not enter again at the same level on the same instrument.

ENTRANT RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Entrants are responsible for all financial obligations at all levels of the competition.

B. District winners are obligated to advance to the State Honors Auditions. Should an unforeseen circumstance prevent a winner or alternate from advancing to the state level they must immediately notify the State Student Honors Program Chair.

C. State winners are required to perform on the Winners' Recital at the biennial PMTNM State Convention, or, in years when there is no convention, on a separate Winners' Recital. Failure to appear on the Winners' Recital will make the winner and the winner's teacher ineligible for any awards, honors, or recognition pertaining to the audition.

D. PMTNM/MTNA recommends that students below the age of 18 be accompanied by an adult at all levels of the auditions. PMTNM will exercise all reasonable caution to provide a safe environment for all entrants but cannot guarantee the safety of all entrants.

FEES

A. District Audition Fees are set by each district to cover the local expenses for judging, facilities, etc. A portion of the fee for each entrant (\$10 for Levels 1-5, and \$12 for College) is sent in one check payable to PMTNM by the District Vice-President to the State Student Honors Program Chair. A \$25 surcharge fee must be added to the District Audition Fee for students of non-PMTNM members.

B. A State Audition Fee of \$35 (payable to PMTNM) is collected from First-Place winners at the conclusion of the District Auditions, and is sent to the State Student Honors Program Chair by the deadline set by the Chair each year. A \$25 surcharge fee must be added to the State Audition Fee for students of non-PMTNM members.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

- A. Piano Performance
- B. Instrumental Performance
- C. Vocal Performance

GENERAL REPERTOIRE & PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Music for all instruments must be of recital or concert caliber.
- B. Music to be performed must be memorized.
- C. The entrant will furnish an original copy of the music for the judge. Reproductions of copyrighted music may be used after the official release form has been signed.
- D. Teachers or students may not edit music by cutting sections out of the music for any instrument.
- E. District winners must play the same selection at the State Honors Audition.
- F. Teachers are permitted to accompany their own students. Students may also bring their own accompanists.
- G. Teachers with students in the State Honors Auditions must register for the State Conference in years when it is held.

TIME LIMITS FOR ALL CATEGORIES

Time limits are strictly enforced. Students who go over the time limit will be disqualified.

- Level I: Up to 6 minutes
- Level II & III: Up to 8 minutes
- Level IV & V: Up to 10 minutes
- College: Up to 12 minutes

PERFORMANCE LEVELS FOR ALL CATEGORIES

- Level I: Students ages 9 and under on September 1
- Level II: Students ages 10-11 on September 1
- Level III: Students ages 12-13 on September 1
- Level IV: Students ages 14-15 on September 1
- Level V: Students ages 16-17 or High School Senior on September 1
- College: Students ages 18-25 on September 1. The contestant need not be currently enrolled in a college or university.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR PIANO AND INSTRUMENTS

- A. Repertoire is left to the discretion of the teacher, subject to the following rules:
 - 1. Entrants may play one or more composition(s) subject to the following rules:
 - a. Multiple pieces must be by the same composer but may have different opus numbers.
 - b. Multiple movements of one sonata, sonatina, or suite may be played.

- c. The timer will stop the clock between movements and pieces.
 - d. Repeats may be included if the total time does not exceed the time limit for each level. Students who go over the time limit will be disqualified.
 - e. All compositions, **including variations**, must be played in their entirety with no cuts or excerpts.
- 2. Transcriptions are allowed, but simplified arrangements are not.
 - 3. When necessary, non-keyboard entrants must furnish an accompanist (which may be their teacher) for all auditions.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR VOICE

A. Levels I – V

- 1. One English art song.*
- 2. One art song of contrasting nature in any language.
- 3. All songs may be sung in English.
- 4. All songs must be art songs or Broadway selections*. Popular music will not be accepted.
- 5. Folk song arrangements such as those by Althouse & Albrecht are acceptable at Levels I & II – ages 9-12.
- 6. It is recommended that operatic arias NOT be sung.

B. College Level

- 1. One aria (opera or oratorio) sung in the original language.
- 2. One Italian, French, German, Spanish, or Russian art song performed in the original language.
- 3. An American or British art song sung in English composed after 1950.

*MTNA accepts the following definition of Art Song: [The art song is] "...music for one voice and piano, occasionally with the addition of an obbligato instrument." Because of their nature, the early Italian songs such as those in *24 Italian Songs and Arias* often are included in the art song category. Songs by Schubert, Schumann, Debussy, Faure, Ravel, Granados, de Falla, Barber, Duke, etc. are excellent examples of "art song." Basically, art song excludes works for voice and orchestra, as well as operatic and oratorio arias since these were composed originally for voice with orchestral accompaniment. Pop music also does not fall into the category of "art song." Broadway selections are acceptable.

JUDGES (DISTRICT AND STATE)

- A. The judges will use the PMTNM Honors Rating Sheets.
- B. District judges **may** select a First, Second, and Third-Place Winner in each level of each category at the District Honors Auditions. At the judges' discretion, judges may select two First-Place Winners and both contestants will advance to the State Honors Auditions. Judges may also award ties for Second and Third places. In the event of a tie for Second Place, and if only one First Place has been awarded, judges must designate one of the two as First Alternate.
- C. State judges **may** select a First, Second and Third-Place Winner in each level of each category at the State Honors Auditions. Judges may not select a tie for First Place, but may award a tie for Second and/or Third Place. In the event of a tie for Second Place, judges must designate one of the two as First Alternate.
- D. **At the judges' discretion, no winner need be declared at the District and State Honors Auditions.**

AUDITION PROCEDURES

A. District Honors Auditions

- 1. The District Vice President will schedule District Honors Auditions in time to meet the deadline established by the State Student Honors Chair for delivery of the District results and checks.

2. First-Place Winner(s) for each level of each category advance to the State Honors Auditions.
3. If a First-Place Winner cannot participate in the State Honors Auditions the Second-Place Winner (First Alternate) will advance to the State Honors Auditions.
4. If there is only one entrant in a level at the District Honors Auditions that student will automatically advance to the State Honors Auditions. He/she may choose to perform for a judge at the District level to receive comments.
5. The State Student Honors Chair will provide the District Vice Presidents the appropriate application forms to be completed and returned by the set deadline. (Sample forms are found in Section XIV.)

B. State Honors Auditions

1. The State Honors Auditions are open to District First-Place Winners, or a District Second-Place (First Alternate) if a First-Place Winner cannot participate.
2. The State Honors Auditions are usually held on Saturday during the second weekend in November. The location of the State Honors Auditions may change from year to year. In years when the biennial PMTNM State Conference is held, the State Honors Auditions will be held in conjunction with the conference.
3. If facilities allow, the State Honors Auditions will be open to the public.
4. Students must arrive at their appointed time for the competition or be disqualified.
5. All teachers with a student participating in the State Honors Auditions are required to help with the competition. In lieu of helping teachers may pay a \$50 fee OR find a qualified adult substitute helper to be approved by the State Student Honors Chair.
6. **State Honors Audition winners are required to perform on a Winners' Recital, when held.** Failure to appear on the Winners Recital will make the winner and the winner's teacher ineligible for any award, honors, or recognition pertaining to the competition. The Second-Place Winner will then be awarded First Place and will be allowed to play on the Winners Recital. (In the event of a second place tie, the entrant designated as the First Alternate by the judges will assume First Place.)
7. State Student Honors Audition winners in each level of each category will be awarded a certificate and a medal or trophy.
8. State Student Honors Audition First-Place winners in Levels I-V and the College Level receive a cash award from the Joyce Walker Student Foundation (as listed in Section III).

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS (HONORS CHAIR)

Northeast I: Wendy Ge (wendykhw@gmail.com)

Northeast II: Lori Dawkins (drd@plateautel.ne)

Northwest: No VP: contact Laura Spitzer (lspitzer@nmsu.edu)

Southeast: No VP: contact Laura Spitzer (lspitzer@nmsu.edu)

Southwest: Yoshiko Arahata (yarahata@nmsu.edu)

SERVING AS 2026 HONORS CHAIR, NOT VP:

Central: Jane Depper (janedepper65@gmail.com)

