

What are the ASMTA Festivals and State Auditions?

- Arkansas State Music Teachers Association sponsors Regional Festivals, usually held in April, and State Auditions, held at the State Conference, which is usually the first full weekend in June.
- They are open to all piano students of ASMTA member teachers.
- The Festivals and Auditions provide piano students with a positive goal of achievement, and a well-rounded musical education.
- This is NOT related to the MTNA Competitions, which starts as the MTNA State Competition in Arkansas.

REGIONAL FESTIVALS:

- Teachers, remember to renew your membership before you submit your students for entry in the Festival.
- The Entry Fee for Festivals is \$25 (effective Spring 2024)
- ASMTA MENTORS: Teachers participating in Regional Festival and State Auditions for the first time may request help from the Chairs, or may be assigned an ASMTA Mentor, to provide guidance and answer any questions. Please contact the ASMTA state president regarding being assigned a Mentor.
- DETERMINING REGIONS: There are six Regions in the state. Regions are determined by the teacher's address. A list of cities in each region can be found on the ASMTA website. If you are unsure what Region your city or town is in, please contact Lisa Miller (lisa.h.miller5@gmail.com).
- DATES/CHAIRPERSONS: Dates and chairpersons can be found on the ASMTA website.
- SELECTING REGION WINNERS AND ALTERNATES:
PRIMARY A – Level 5 select ONE winner and ONE alternate for each 10 entered
Levels 6 – 10 select ONE winner and ONE alternate for each 5 entered.
Splitting levels between judges is not allowed at Region or State Auditions. This is necessary for a fair process. Note: All alternates from Levels 6-10 will be invited to participate at the State Level during Conference.
- THREE COMPONENTS of Regional Festivals:
 - a. Performance of 2 solo pieces for a judge.
 - REPERTOIRE:
 - a. Repertoire must be selected from the online “Repertoire Directory” available to members on the ASMTA website, under “Competitions and Festivals;” “Repertoire Directory.”
 - b. All Repertoire MUST BE PERFORMED FROM MEMORY.
 - c. Students are allowed to perform solos and to test on the same level for TWO consecutive years, provided they have not been the State Audition winner of that level.
 - d. Students on Levels 9 and 10 may select solos from either level.
 - e. Students may enter for comments only. Fee is \$25. Students will receive a Rating Sheet with comments and a grade. They may be heard by any judge but are ineligible to win Region or State.
 - f. Repertoire Solos may not be repeated from one year to the next.

g. Downloaded (from Public Domain library, e.g. IMSLP) and 'paid online' music is acceptable. Xeroxed or copied music is not permissible. For further clarification on copyright issues, please visit MTNA website www.mtna.org/member-resources/copyright-information/copyright-faqs/

b. Written Theory Test. Taken the same day as the Performance audition.

c. Keyboard Theory Test, involving playing of Scales, Chords, etc., Ear Training, and Sightreading.

The student takes this written and playing test the same day as the playing exam, with a teacher who is not his/her own. Also referred to as "Musicianship Test."

Please note that students must score 75% or higher on combined written, keyboard, ear training and sightreading tests to qualify for the state auditions.

- THE LEVEL AT WHICH A STUDENT IS ENTERED IS UNRELATED TO THEIR GRADE IN SCHOOL.
- DETERMINING STUDENT'S LEVEL: To determine a student's level, the teacher should search for pieces the student is currently playing, or for other pieces known to be at the same level, and see which level they are listed in. The levels are Primary A, Primary B, and 1 through 10. For example, if a student is playing Musette in D by Bach, one can type "Musette" under "Title," and all the Musettes by different composers will appear. The teacher can then select "Musette BWV Anhang 126" by Bach, and find that it is in Level 3, under Period A, for Baroque and Classical. Then the teacher will need to find one more repertoire piece from Level 3 for the Festival, which can be in either Period B, Romantic, or Period C, Contemporary.
- AGE RULES: The following rules were passed by the Repertoire Committee on August 17, 2007. These age rules are not suggestions, they are firm. The ages apply when we start a new school year in September of each year. PRIMARY A must be no older than 8 by September 1 of the Current Festival Year. PRIMARY B must be no older than 9 by September 1 of the Current Festival Year. LEVEL 1 must be no older than 12 by September 1 of the Current Festival Year
- STYLE PERIODS FOR LOWER LEVELS: For Levels Primary A, Primary B, and 1, there are no separate Periods by style or time period. The teacher may select any two pieces for the student from the list at these levels, in contrasting style and tempo.
- COMMENTS SHEETS: All participating students receive written comment sheets.
- PLANNING AHEAD: It is recommended that teachers choose and assign pieces for the Festival no later than mid-autumn, to allow students ample preparation and comfort in performance.
- RATINGS: Any number of students may receive a "1" rating, but only Winners and Alternates receive a "1+."
- THEORY GUIDELINES for each level of Written Theory, Keyboard Theory, and Ear Training may be found on the ASMTA website.
- FURTHER THEORY RESOURCES: Members may also access further theory and ear training resources on the ASMTA Website, which includes Dr. Susan Tusing's Music Review Lessons.
- REPERTOIRE GUIDE UPDATES/CORRECTIONS: The online Repertoire Guide is updated annually in early August to reflect pieces to be utilized for the coming school year. Please send corrections or repertoire suggestions to the Repertoire Guide Committee, Lauren Schack Clark lsclark@astate.edu or Sharon Ard sharonard@yahoo.com.
- TEACHERS MUST BE ACTIVE MEMBERS: Participants must currently be studying with an active member in good standing of Arkansas State Music Teachers' Association.

Students must be in school grades Pre-school through K-12, or be home-schooled to be eligible for the competition. Regions may also allow adult students to enter the festival, but for comments only (adult students are not eligible to compete for the state auditions); check with your region chair to see if adult students can participate in your region.

- **RESIDENCE:** Students must enter Festival in the Region in which their teacher resides. No exceptions.
- **STUDENT FEES:** Student Fees are non-refundable, for any reason. Students will not be entered until fee is paid.
- **TEACHER DUES:** Teacher's dues to ASMTA and MTNA must be paid before his/her Region Festival.
- **TEACHER CONFERENCE FEES:** Teacher's Conference Fee of \$35 must be paid before Conference, whether or not the teacher attends.
- **TEST LEVELS AND STATE HONOR ROLL:** All Tests and Repertoire Solos must be entered on the same level, except for Transfer Students. Written Theory Honor Roll – students scoring 90% and above will be listed on the roll and receive a Certificate from ASMTA. Musicianship Honor Roll – students scoring 90% and above will be listed on the roll and receive a Certificate from ASMTA.
- **PERFECT SCORE:** Students graded SUPERIOR (I) on Repertoire and who score 100% on ALL tests will receive an award from ASMTA for Perfect Score. Bonus test points may be used to aid the student to score 100%.
- **TRANSFER STUDENTS:** Transfer students may enter tests TWO levels below Repertoire, but no lower than two levels. Students are considered Transfer Students for TWO consecutive years with the same teacher. If students have previously participated in ASMTA Festival with a different teacher, they may not enter at a lower level with the new teacher.
- **REGION WINNERS:** Must score at least 75% on combined test scores. PRIMARY A - Level 5 students will audition for Winners Recital. Levels 7 – 10 students will audition for the Master Class Recital.
- **ASMTA AWARDS:** ASMTA will purchase and present the following for Region Festivals: Participation Certificates, Theory Honor Roll Certificates, Musicianship Certificates, Perfect Score Awards. Any other awards presented at Region Festivals are the financial responsibility of that region and cannot be reimbursed by ASMTA. Regions are allowed \$10 per judge toward cost of judge's lunch on Festival Day.
- **CHOOSING JUDGES:** Region Chairs: Please remember to choose judges from close to your Region, to maintain a reasonable mileage expense. The maximum reimbursement for an individual judge's mileage is \$150.

STATE AUDITIONS:

- Winners of Regional Festivals compete in the State Competitions. For Levels 6 through 10, all Alternates also compete in the State Auditions.
- State Auditions involve the Performance component only, with no further Theory or Musicianship tests.
- Levels A – 5: Students play TWO solos Levels 6 - 10: Students play ONE solo, selected by Region Judge.
- State Winners in levels A, B, and 1 through 6 perform in an Honors Recital the afternoon of the audition day. State Winners in Levels 7 through 10 perform in a Master Class with a Guest Artist Pianist the afternoon of the audition day.

- All State Entrants receive Comments Sheets.
- All State Winners receive a Trophy.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

For additional **questions about Festivals**, please contact:
Lisa Miller, Festival Chair, lisa.h.miller5@gmail.com

For questions regarding **accessing and navigating the Repertoire Directory**, please contact
our webmaster, Alline Phillips. phillipsalline@gmail.com

For **Repertoire Guide Requests and Editing**, Please contact:
Dr. Lauren Schack Clark, Co-Chair, Repertoire Committee, lsclark@astate.edu
Or
Sharon Ard, Co-Chair, Repertoire Committee, sharonard@yahoo.com