

RENO YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL  
*sponsored by the*  
NORTHERN NEVADA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Festival will be held in the Spring of each year. The dates will be announced in the NNMTA monthly newsletter. The Command Performance recitals will follow within two weeks of the Festival, and all Superior rated students are expected to participate.

Eligibility: Actively studying school students from Nevada (entire state) and the California counties bordering Nevada are eligible to enter festival.

Publishers: Those listed are only recommendations. Any published music is acceptable.

Theory examinations are mandatory and must be held before festival registration for all levels. Testing will be done by the studio teachers.

Purposes of the Festival:

1. To promote and foster interest and participation in performance by students of all ages from elementary through high school, on all levels of achievement.
2. To inspire teachers toward higher standards through observation and application in preparing their students for the annual festival.
3. To provide well-qualified and impartial judges to adjudicate the performers and provide constructive and encouraging appraisal of student's work. It is the hope of the festival committee that the festival will inspire students and teachers alike to continue their musical studies and strive to attain the highest level of musical growth.

Divisions:

1. Level I through V, Category A or B: For students who progress from B to A in the same level, or from one level to the next.
2. Medalist: For any student who has attained a high level of technical and artistic maturity. The Silver Medalist prepares a program not to exceed 20 minutes; the Gold Medalist requirements parallel those of the MTNA High School auditions which includes a concerto movement.

Classifications For Registration:

1. Competitive or Non-competitive: All students must register as competitive or non-competitive. Non-competitive entries will be evaluated by only one judge. Comments and constructive criticisms will be made in writing for the benefit of student and teacher. These students will not be selected for placement in the Command Performance and are not given a rating. Pieces need not be memorized, but all other rules must be observed.
2. Traditional or Masterclass format: Students in Levels III, IV or V may be entered into Traditional or Masterclass Audition formats at the discretion of their teacher. Only the Traditional panel is available for Levels I, II and the Medalist divisions. Every effort will be made to place students in the requested audition format; however, because each format

requires that specialized adjudicators be hired prior to the registration deadline, it is not possible to guarantee placement in the requested audition format. Students in BOTH formats are adjudicated against a standard of artistic excellence rather than competing against other students.

**TRADITIONAL** - In the traditional audition, a student performs for three adjudicators, who provide written comments and suggestions, and determine a rating (Superior, Excellent, Needs Attention) for the students. Adjudicators do not speak to the student. Students receiving a rating of "Superior" receive a trophy and perform in the Command Performances. Students receiving ratings of Excellent are awarded ribbons.

**MASTERCLASS** - In the masterclass audition, a student performs for one adjudicator who does not give the student a rating, but rather designates which students will perform in the Command Performance. (The criteria for selection and level or performance quality is for the traditional audition.) After each performance, the adjudicator conducts a brief masterclass for the benefit of the performers and audience. Students selected for the Command Performance receive a trophy, all others receive a Masterclass participation ribbon.

The following explains the philosophy for establishing the Masterclass option:

- A. Student performance is not rated.
- B. Rather than divide the adjudicator stipend between three adjudicators, it is all used to retain one adjudicator of the highest possible expertise.
- C. Student participants, as well as the audience, will learn more by observing a masterclass for each performer.
- D. The master teacher can convey more information through demonstration and speaking about music than could be written in the allotted time.

**FESTIVAL RULES AND REGULATIONS: REVISED, November, 2003:**

1. **ALL REQUIRED PIECES MUST BE TAKEN FROM THE SYLLABUS**, excepting Medalist Divisions as described. All pieces must be selected from the same level in which the student is registered, and must be in the same category. (All IIA or all IIB etc.) *Any student with the approval and encouragement of his teacher may repeat the same level with new repertoire as many times as desired, regardless of rating. Students repeating a level must not repeat repertoire used previously. A student may not change repertoire once submitted at registration time. If a student plays repertoire other than what was registered, the student will receive no rating and the teacher will be notified.*
2. Students are required to furnish judges and evaluators with a copy of the music played. The music submitted should have been actually used by the student for study and marked by the teacher.
3. *If a student/teacher wishes to use music that is legally printed out from an internet website, the student/teacher must also provide a cover sheet showing the website's legal authorization to do so. The student/teacher must also provide on the student application the exact webpage and links to the authorization page. The teacher will then receive stamped documentation showing NNMTA approval of the printout and it must be attached to the music.*

4. Appropriate tempo is expected for style and character. Editorial changes must be so indicated on the judge's copy.
5. A student must have studied with the teacher under whom she or he enters for at least six months prior to the Festival. *Exceptions, such as the death of the teacher, relocation of teacher or of student, transfer of student initiated by the original teacher, etc., are to be approved by the Festival Committee.*
6. Festival Committee reserves the right to refuse a participant who has not complied with the rules.
7. *A student may enter only one level in a year.*
8. A student may enter a division higher or lower than his years of study at the teacher's discretion. Each teacher should honestly assess his/her student's skill level and choose appropriately.
9. Teachers should instruct students to bow before and after their performance. Stage presence is an adjudicating factor, except for handicapped students. Performers are not to announce their own numbers to the audience. Clothing and personal appearance should be addressed by the teacher in preparing students for the festival.
10. Repeats:
  - a. All repeats should be observed in Levels IB and IA.
  - b. At levels II and above, longer pieces should be performed without repeats due to the time element. The exceptions to this ruling would be short repeats in certain pieces, minuet or scherzo trio forms, especially those in levels II and III.
11. Timings of works to be performed are extremely important, especially at upper levels due to master scheduling. PLEASE be as accurate as possible. Adjudicators may call time at their discretion within any composition. The judges decisions will be final.
12. All students at all levels will take Theory tests, and each resulting score will be indicated on the Festival Registration card.

All studios will be responsible for giving their own theory tests. Each teacher will determine what tests are needed, complete a request form and send it to Ruth Brewer. A packet will be prepared for the teacher containing all needed directions and materials. All students must pass with a minimum score, each student paying \$4.00 for each test taken. Grades are required on the festival registration forms. Students registering for festival must have taken the appropriate level test and have a score of 70% or above registered with the theory committee before their registration can be accepted. Packets will be available from December until festival registration. (Two studios going together might be helpful for organizing and supervising. Parents can be good help.)

Students who score 85% or more on the theory exams will receive a special Musical Merit seal on their certificate.

No money awards will be given for perfect scores. Individual studios may set up their own award system.

Theory requirements are listed by level in the back of syllabus.

13. All superior rated performers are expected to perform in the Command Performance recital.
14. All festival entrants receive a participant ribbon and certificate the day of their evaluation.
15. Registration deadline will be approximately 4-6 weeks prior to festival. No late entries will be considered. Teachers are responsible for picking up registration cards from the festival chairman.
16. Teachers will receive performance schedules in the mail approximately one week prior to festival.
17. Teachers wishing to change students from competitive to non-competitive may do so up to one week prior to festival date by contacting the festival chairman. **NO OTHER SCHEDULE CHANGES CAN BE MADE.** Teachers should notify chairman of any last minute cancellations.
18. No fees are refundable.
19. Teachers entering students are required to work the day/days of festival.
20. Student's classification will be changed from competitive to non-competitive if any of the following occur:
  - a. Failure by teachers to work festival dates
  - b. Changes in music listed on registration card
  - c. Use of incorrect computer numbers
  - d. Failure to take appropriate theory tests before registration
21. An appeal may be made by a teacher on any of the Festival matters to the NNMTA Board of Trustees.
22. Teachers may pick up awards and adjudication sheets at the Command Performance or from the festival chairperson after 24 hours.
23. The decision of the judges is final. The judges are not to be challenged by a teacher, parent, or student. Any violation of this rule will result in the teacher and/or student not accepted in the festival the following year.

24. Use of unauthorized photocopied music is strongly discouraged.

FESTIVAL RULES AND REGULATIONS: REVISED, January, 2009:

In order to maintain impartiality, judges are not allowed to conduct private master classes for teachers' studios

- a) immediately before or after festival, as this compromises NNMTA's funds for travel reimbursement, and
- b) 2 months preceding the date of the festival, as this can compromise judging objectivity.

Any teacher who violates this policy may be banned from participating in future festivals.

Fee schedule, per student

Level IB, IA	\$15.00
Level IIB, IIA	\$20.00
Level IIIB, IIIA	\$25.00
Level IVB, IVA	\$30.00
Level VB, VA	\$35.00
Silver Medalists	\$40.00
Gold Medalists	\$50.00

THEORY: all levels, \$4.00 test, \$2.00 ribbon

Teachers should order the necessary number of registration cards (one for each student) from the chairman. Each set of cards will include a teacher cover card. Complete all cards and mail with proper fees by deadline date. Checks and money orders should be made out to NORTHERN NEVADA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (NNMTA). Non-member teachers entering students are assessed an additional fee of \$75.00 in *each* festival.