

BAY STATE STRINGS CONTEST RULES

To be held on Saturday, May 25, 2019

Boston University College of Fine Arts, 855 Commonwealth Ave., Boston MA 02215

To encourage the fine young music students in Massachusetts and to give support and recognition to the music teachers of the state, the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association conducts an annual statewide contest for students from age 6 through age 18. **Facilities and judges permitting**, the contest performances may be open to the public.

PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

MMTA/MTNA membership must be complete by March 1, 2019 to avoid the non-member fee.

1. Who can send students? All members (except student members) may sponsor contestants by submitting the required entry fee for each contestant. Students should pay this fee.

Ages 6 – 10: \$50.00

Ages 11– 14: \$60.00

Ages 15 – 18: \$70.00

A non-member may participate by including a teacher fee of \$90.00 along with the student fees. Consider joining MMTA next year.

Entry fees cannot be refunded, except when the entry is rejected by the Association.

No parents or substitutes will be allowed to fill the volunteer positions this year. Teachers who cannot assist must pay the non-volunteer fee.

All teachers entering 1 to 4 students must assist during the day of the contest, or pay a \$35 non-volunteer fee. Any teacher who sends 5 to 9 students must pay \$55 if unable to assist. For those entering 10 to 14 students, the non-volunteer fee is \$75. Teachers who enter 15 or more students must commit himself or herself to be at the contest the whole day, or pay a \$95 non-volunteer fee. A last minute cancellation without a substitute will result in those students being disqualified.

Each participating teacher shall submit the online application form and entry fees to the Contest by **May 10 2019**.

2. What students can compete? Each contestant must have been Massachusetts resident for six months or more and have studied with the teacher for a minimum of six months preceding the contest.

A student will be assigned to a division based on her/his age on May 1, 2019. The exact date and year of birth must be entered in the space provided on the application form. **Each student must upload proof of age to the contest (passport or birth certificate) when registering.** The information can then be stored for future use and will not need to be uploaded again yearly.

Judging takes place between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. **Make sure your students are free all day**, as the Contest Committee cannot guarantee a morning or afternoon judging time. Do not enter students who have to be elsewhere that day.

<u>PIANO</u>	<u>AGE LIMITS</u>	<u>MAXIMUM TIME</u>	<u>REPERTOIRE</u>
Division 1 representing at least 2 periods	15-18 years	15 minutes	MUST perform contrasting pieces
Division 2 representing at least 2 periods	12-14 years	10 minutes	MUST perform contrasting pieces
Division 3 representing at least 2 periods	9-11 years	8 minutes	MUST perform contrasting pieces
Division 4	6-8 years	6 minutes	MUST perform contrasting pieces

3. What are the repertoire requirements? Select from the following period classifications:

Baroque
Classical (including Beethoven)
Romantic (no composer born after 1900)
Impressionist or Contemporary

Good choice of literature will count for much in the contest evaluation. No arrangements or simplifications will be permitted. Transcriptions and paraphrases that are recognized as part of the standard solo canon are acceptable.

Program modifications may be made until May 15.

All music must be performed from memory. No repeats are to be taken.

Teachers should make every effort to ensure that the student's program fits into the time limit. Judges will stop a program over the time limit.

No contestant may repeat a composition with which she/he won first, second or third prize in any MMTA contest.

Contestants must submit to the judges an edition of the music to be performed. Any contestant who fails to bring her/his music scores will be permitted to perform but will not be evaluated on that piece.

4. How is a student assigned a division and performance time?

Students will be assigned to a division determined by their age on MAY 1. Performance times will be determined by random drawing. **Special requests cannot be accommodated.**

Failure to appear at the appointed time will result in disqualification.

5. How is judging done? Two judges will work together to evaluate all students in a division. They will jointly determine the awards.

If, in their opinion, the judges do not feel that any student has performed at the level to receive an award, they may choose not to present awards.

Judges shall have absolute privacy at all times. No one may speak to them under any circumstances or conditions, except members of the supervisory committee and monitors. Contestants, their teachers, parents or friends who violate this rule will cause immediate disqualification of the contestant. **DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.**

6. What are the evaluation criteria? Contestants in all categories shall be evaluated on the following:

- Interpretation, as written in the submitted musical score
- Tone
- Tempo
- Dynamics
- Phrasing
- Technique
- Choice of Literature
- Stage Presence

7. What awards are given?

First, second and third place trophies and certificates are presented **AT THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGES.** In case of ties, duplicate awards will be given. Honorable mention ribbons may also be awarded at the judges' discretion.

When there are less than six contestants in any one division, prizes will be limited to first and second place.

Each contestant will receive a Certificate of Participation, as well as an evaluation from the judges.

Contestants and teachers should make every effort to stay for the award ceremonies, or to make arrangements for someone present to pick up any awards as awards will **NOT** be mailed. Awards are presented shortly after the conclusion of each division competition.

8. Anything else I should know?

Judging takes place between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. **Make sure your students are free all day**, as the Contest Committee cannot guarantee a morning or afternoon judging time. Do not enter students who have to be elsewhere that day.

MMTA members must adhere to the standards of behavior as stated in the MTNA Code of Ethics. Those who are proven to have violated this code by such actions as recruiting students or parents, or harassing students, judges, parents or other teachers will be subject to disciplinary action by the MMTA Board. In addition, all participants, teachers and parents are expected to be courteous and respectful to each other while at the contest site.

DISCLAIMER

Neither the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association nor any Contest site is responsible for any bodily injury or property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or visitor during the time they are on the premises in which the contest is held.