

Mississippi Music Teachers Association

General Guidelines

MMTA DISTRICT EVALUATIONS AND PRE-COLLEGE FINALS

I. DISTRICT EVALUATIONS

A. Requirements & Scheduling

Teachers entering students in the MMTA Pre-College Evaluations must be members of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association. Membership dues must be paid by the date established by the MMTA Board to be eligible to enter students in any Evaluations or Competitions. Teachers entering students must work at District Evaluations or pay a fee to be determined by the district. Teachers who have students in Pre-College Finals must work a minimum of ½ day or pay \$35 or the fee determined by the MMTA Board. Teachers will provide a list of students who will play at Pre-College Finals to the VP of Pre-College Competitions.

District Evaluations will be held the first and second Saturdays in April. If this conflicts with Easter, the Evaluation dates will be scheduled at the discretion of the VP of Pre-College Evaluations, with District Evaluations in March and/or April, and Pre-College Finals in May. Dates for Evaluations and Pre-College Finals should be confirmed in May for the following year. Districts will be divided into two groups with one group holding evaluations on the first designated Saturday, the other on the later date.

- Group A:** Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, and Tupelo will audition first in even-numbered years.
- Group B:** Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Oxford, and Vicksburg will audition first in odd-numbered years.

Students who cannot attend MMTA District Evaluations in their own district may participate in a different district. No other make-ups are allowed.

B. Guidelines for District Evaluations

Each entrant shall be judged by a qualified adjudicator who will give a written evaluation and a numerical rating. Evaluation shall include commendations for elements well-done, and constructive comments where attention is needed. Ratings are SUPERIOR (90-100), EXCELLENT (80-89), GOOD (70-79), NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (60 – 69). There will be no scores below 60. Judges will be carefully instructed in procedures prior to beginning adjudications.

Performance

Repertoire requirements are listed separately for each instrument and level under “Requirements.” Time limits are strictly observed. Only original music may be used, with the exception of **Guitar & Voice – all Grades, Brass & Woodwinds – Grades 7 & Below**, when arrangements will be accepted. No photocopied music may be used by the soloist, the accompanist, or the judge. The use of computer-generated music (i.e. music from CD rom from publisher) is permitted as long as the music contains copyright information.

Vocal and Piano students are required to have repertoire memorized.

Guitar, Strings, Brass & Woodwind students are not required to have repertoire memorized – optional.

Voice students will be evaluated on the following: stage presence, vocal technique (including accuracy of pitch), musicianship and interpretation (including the ability to demonstrate understanding of lyrics/poetry). Evaluation shall include commendation for phrases well done and comments where attention is needed.

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Sonata/Sonatina

Judges will hear entire sonata/sonatina consisting of at least 2 movements. Memorization required of pianists.

Theme & Variations

Judges will hear entire work consisting of a theme and a minimum of two variations. Memorization required of pianists.

Ensemble

Students will perform one duet, duo, or other ensemble composition with no repeats. Each ensemble must enter the level of the student who is in the highest Grade. Memorization is *not* required.

Technical Skills

Judges will listen to designated requirements from each area within the allotted time on Adjudication sheet. Time limit includes writing of comments.

Sight-Reading

(Optional for Voice) Judges will listen to three (3) short examples provided by VP of Pre-College Evaluations. Testing of Sight-Reading should not exceed five (5) minutes, including writing of comments.

Written Theory

(Optional for Voice) Students in the same Grade will be tested as a group whenever possible. Students may repeat the test at the same grade as long as they are permitted by grade in school to remain on that grade.

C. Performance Time Limits at Evaluations:

Piano

Grades 6 & Below:	5 minutes
Grade 7:	6 minutes
Grade 8:	10 minutes
Grades 9 & 10:	12 minutes
Grades 11 & 12:	15 minutes

Strings

Grades 2 & Below:	4 minutes
Grades 3 & 4:	5 minutes
Grades 5 & 6:	6 minutes
Grades 7 & 8:	8 minutes
Grades 9 & 10:	12 minutes
Grades 11 & 12:	15 minutes

Voice

Grade 9:	8 minutes
Grade 10:	10 minutes
Grade 11:	12 minutes
Grade 12:	15 minutes

Brass & Woodwinds

Grades 7 & Below:	6 minutes
Grades 8 & 9:	10 minutes
Grades 10, 11 & 12:	15 minutes

Guitar

Grades 3 & Below:	4 minutes
Grades 4 & 5:	5 minutes
Grades 6 & 7:	8 minutes
Grades 8 & 9:	10 minutes
Grades 11 & 12:	15 minutes

Ensemble

All Grades:	5 minutes
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Sonata/Sonatina

All Divisions:	10 minutes
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Theme & Variations

All Divisions:	8 minutes
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II. SPECIAL INFORMATION

A. Grades

Students are encouraged to participate at their school grade. Students who have skipped a grade academically may choose to enter at that grade or at the grade that their birth year reflects.

B. Non-Competitive

Non-competitive students are those who participate at any grade lower than their grade in school. Their evaluation scores are based on the student's performance, regardless of their grade or years of study, but they are *not eligible* to perform at Pre-College Finals. Non-competitive students will receive adjudication forms and a certificate.

C. Accelerated Grades

Students who enter a *higher grade* than their grade in school are eligible for Pre-College Finals, but if they win that grade, they must move up a level the following year to be eligible for Pre-College Finals in that year.

D. Pre-College Finals Winners

Pre-College Final winners must move up a level the following year. A student may not be a winner at the same grade for two years, with the exception of **Grades 3 & Below** and **Grade 12**. These advancement rules apply to Piano Solo Performance only.

E. Special Needs

Special needs applies to a student who needs special exceptions to the General Guidelines. A student of any age may require assistance in reading the written theory test or need more time to complete the test. A physical condition may require special considerations such as wheelchair accessibility, or scheduling. The District Evaluations Chair will work with the student's teacher to determine how MMTA can best serve these students. Special needs students performing at their *grade* may participate in Pre-College Finals if their scores meet eligibility requirements. No words or markings will appear on adjudication forms or certificates that indicate special needs.

F. Multiple Ensemble Registrations

To register in more than one Ensemble Division, a student must be eligible for *each* Division entered, and play *different* repertoire with a new partner.

G. Duplication

Students performing in **Sonata/Sonatina** and/or **Theme & Variations** Divisions may *not* program any part of those works in **Solo Performance** at District Evaluations or Pre-College Finals.

H. Divisions

Students entering **Sonata/Sonatina**, **Ensemble** and **Theme & Variations** will be grouped into Divisions, according to their grade.

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Piano Only

Division A:	Grades 4 & Below
Division B:	Grades 5 & 6
Division C:	Grades 7 & 8
Division D:	Grades 9 & 10
Division E:	Grades 11 & 12

Other Instruments

Division A:	Grades 3 & Below
Division B:	Grades 4, 5 & 6
Division C:	Grades 7 & 8
Division D:	Grades 9 & 10
Division E:	Grades 11 & 12

I. Repertoire Changes

Students will be allowed to change repertoire up to 7 days prior to the District Evaluations. If they choose to do so, it is the teacher's responsibility to provide a replacement application 7 days prior to District Evaluations. The new application must be in the District Evaluations Chair's hands 7 days prior to the Evaluations entered. **Students may not change repertoire between the Evaluations and Pre-College Finals.** If a student changes repertoire at that time, he/she will be declared ineligible for competition but will be allowed to play and receive a rating and certificate. Original repertoire will appear in the Pre-College Finals Recital Book.

J. Recourse Policy

If an error in Grading or Computation is found on either Written Theory or Technical Skills the teacher must notify the District Evaluations Chair within 24 hours of the end of the Evaluations, with the exception of students playing outside their district. Otherwise, there can be no recourse for errors made. When students play outside their district, the chair must allow time for teacher's receipt of the student's evaluation forms.

K. Deadlines

Published entry deadlines for District Evaluations must be adhered to without exception. There will be no refunds in case of cancellation.

L. Outstanding Achievement Award

This award recognizes the pre-college student who has demonstrated excellence in music and perseverance through participation in the District Evaluations. Applicants must have been eligible for Pre-College Finals seven different years (not consecutive). Five of these years must be in Solo Performance. Pre-College Finals eligibility in multiple categories within the same year will count as **one** year. Recipients shall receive an engraved plaque and a monetary award at Pre-College Finals. A student whose first year of participation in Evaluations is as a Non-Competitive student may apply that successful participation toward the Outstanding Achievement Award if their scores meet Pre-College Finals requirements. This would apply to a Grade 4 who enters at Grade 3, or a Grade 5 who enters at Grade 3 or Grade 4 their first year.

Procedure: Teachers recommending students for this award must submit to the District Evaluations Chair the completed application and documentation of student's seven years of eligibility no later than the date of the current year's Evaluations. (Copies of Adjudication sheets, Certificates, Pre-College Finals Winners' Recital, or Pre-College Finals programs are acceptable.) The District Chair will send the application and documentation to the VP of Pre-College Performances with the results of the current year's Evaluations. Students may receive this award only once.

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III. PRE-COLLEGE FINALS

A. Date

Pre-College Finals will usually be the first weekend in May. Refer to the MMT for the exact date and place.

B. Eligibility

To be eligible for Pre-College Finals, students must achieve the required ratings for their grade as stated for each performance category and/or medium entered in the District Evaluations. Students must receive a Superior rating in various combinations of the 4 basic categories: Solo Performance, Technical Skills, Written Theory, and Sight-Reading. Requirements to be eligible for Pre-College Finals for each grade and medium are listed below:

Piano

Grades 3 & Below: Superior in all Categories
Grades 4, 5 & 6: Superior in all Categories
Grades 7, 8 & 9: Superior in Performance +
2 other basics
Grades 10, 11 & 12: Superior in Performance +
1 other basics

Strings

All Grades: Superior in Performance +
1 other basic

Voice

All Grades: Superior in Performance

Theme & Variations

All Divisions: Superior in Theme & Var. +
1 other basic

Guitar

Grades 3 & Below: Superior in Performance
Grades 4 & Higher: Superior in Performance +
1 other basic

Brass & Woodwinds

Grades 6, 7 & 8: Superior in Performance +
1 other basic
Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12: Superior in Performance +
2 other basics

Ensemble

All Divisions: Superior in Ensemble +
1 other basic

Sonata/Sonatina

All Divisions: Superior in Sonata/Sonatina +
1 other basic

C. Performance Time Limits

Students in Solo Performance will perform two contrasting pieces as indicated on the District Evaluations Application. If no repertoire is checked, the first two compositions listed will be programmed. If repertoire exceeds the time limit, the student will be stopped by the monitor. Teachers and students must be aware that both pieces are to be heard by the judge(s) within the time limit allowed that level. Otherwise, the student will be ineligible for an award. Students are advised to play the shorter piece first. Taking repeats is discouraged. A timekeeper will stop any student exceeding the limit, but students stopped during the second piece will not be penalized.

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Piano

Grades 6 & Below:	3 minutes
Grades 7 & 8:	5 minutes
Grades 9 & 10:	8 minutes
Grades 11 & 12:	10 minutes

Strings

Grades 2 & Below:	4 minutes
Grades 3 & 4:	5 minutes
Grades 5 & 6:	6 minutes
Grades 7 & 8:	8 minutes
Grades 9 & 10:	12 minutes
Grades 11 & 12:	15 minutes

Sonata/Sonatina 10 minutes

Theme & Variations 8 minutes

Brass & Woodwinds

Grades 7 & Below:	6 minutes
Grades 8 & 9:	10 minutes
Grades 10, 11 & 12:	15 minutes

Guitar

Grades 3 & Below:	4 minutes
Grades 4 & 5:	5 minutes
Grades 6 & 7:	8 minutes
Grades 8 & 9:	10 minutes
Grades 10, 11 & 12:	12 minutes

Voice

Grade 9 & 10:	8 minutes
Grade 11 & 12:	10 minutes

Ensemble 5 minutes

Sonata/Sonatina: 10 minutes

At Pre-College Finals the student will *play only two contrasting movements*. (No repeats except for *da capo*.) If more than two movements are played, the student will be disqualified from the **Sonata/Sonatina** competition. Students eligible in **Sonata/Sonatina** may not program any movement of the **Sonata/Sonatina** for the **Solo Performance**.

Theme & Variations: 8 minutes

Student will play a complete **Theme & Variations**, no repeats. However, should the composition exceed the time limit, the student may choose contrasting variations that will fill the allotted time. No portion of this composition may be programmed for Solo Performance.

Ensemble: 5 minutes

Students will perform one duet, duo, or other **ensemble** composition with no repeats. Each **Ensemble** must enter the level of the student who is in the highest grade.

D. State Finals Repertoire Restriction

Students are not allowed to use the same repertoire which they performed at previous District Evaluations or Pre-College Finals. They must perform the repertoire indicated on their application form. In the event of a discrepancy with the program booklet, the announcer will verify the piece(s) with the Workroom before awards are presented. If the student has actually performed the wrong piece, he/she will be disqualified from receiving an award.

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Suggested solo literature (for all levels and instruments) is available from all chair officers. The ultimate choice of literature is at the discretion of the teacher. Teachers and students must be aware that both pieces are to be heard by the judge(s) within the time limit allowed at that level. Otherwise, the student will be ineligible for an award. Students are advised to play the shorter piece first. Taking repeats is discouraged. A timekeeper will stop any student exceeding the limit, but students stopped during the second piece **will not** be penalized. Please consider time limits according to the student's grade.

E. Accompanists

Students whose pieces require accompaniment may provide their own accompanist, or MMTA will provide contact information of available accompanists for Pre-College Finals at the request of the teacher.

F. Pre-College Finals Awards

Medals

Medals shall be awarded to the winner(s) in each Grade or Division recital at Pre-College Finals. The student receiving the highest averaged score in each Grade/Division recital shall be declared winner. In case of a tie, duplicate awards shall be given. (Pre-College Concerto and Original Composition winners' medals will be presented at the MMTA State Conference.)

Ribbons

Ribbons shall be awarded to all students who receive an average of 95 or higher. Scores above 95 will be ranked in descending numerical order, with ribbon awards being given to Second, Third and Fourth places. All other students who are non-winners but receive a rating of 95 or higher in their performance shall be awarded Honorable Mention. Students whose scores tie will receive duplicate awards.

Certificates

Certificates of Participation shall be awarded to students who participate in any category of the Pre-College Finals.

Plaques

An engraved plaque shall be awarded to the student(s) who receive(s) the highest composite score in the four basic categories for each level.

360 (270) Certificates

Students who receive a composite score of 360 or higher in the local auditions will receive a special Certificate at Pre-College Finals. Students in Grades 3 & Below will receive Certificates for 270 or higher.

Outstanding Achievement Award

See requirements under **II - SPECIAL INFORMATION** – letter **I. Outstanding Achievement Award**

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IV. JUDGES' GUIDELINES

Pre-College Finals

Students performing at Pre-College Finals have already participated in District Evaluations where they were judged Superior in Performance and met other stringent qualifying tests which vary by grade and medium.

At Pre-College Finals, one judge shall adjudicate each recital in Guitar, Brass & Woodwinds, Strings, Voice, or Piano. For Solo Pre-College Finals events, each student must perform the two memorized selections designated on their Evaluations Application Form, within a specified time period, which varies by grade and medium.

Judges shall give each student a numerical grade (1-100). The student with the highest grade will be declared winner in each Grade and Division. In case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given. Students who receive a grade of 95 or higher will be ranked 2nd, 3rd, 4th Place, or Honorable Mention in descending order from the winner. Certificates of Participation will be awarded to each student who plays in any category of Pre-College Finals.

Score sheets will be collected at the conclusion of each recital and delivered to the workroom for ranking and record keeping.

Sonatina/Sonata division performances will perform only *two* movements.

Theme and Variations must be played in its entirety. (Should the **Theme & Variations** exceed the time limit, the student may choose contrasting variations to fill the approximate time limit.)

Ensemble entrants are *not* required to play by memory.

Each performance will be timed, a timekeeper will stop any student exceeding the limit, but student will *not* be penalized. However, a student must play at least portions of two selections to be eligible for an award. Judges should note on scoring sheet if only one piece was performed. Likewise, a student playing three movements of a Sonata/Sonatina will be ineligible for an award. The purpose of our Pre-College Finals is to support and encourage music study by every student in the recitals. Please keep in mind that you are adjudicating Pre-College students. Only a small number will be of outstanding ability and perhaps continue to advance music study. Many are not musically gifted but demonstrate diligent preparation. We seek to recognize and reward their commitment by presenting several awards in each recital.