

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

## 2023-2024

Colorado State Music Teachers Association



Supplement to *Notes & News*

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.  
[www.comusicteacher.net](http://www.comusicteacher.net)

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# CSMTA Student Activities Program

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# Purpose

The Colorado State Music Teachers Association Student Activities Program exists to:

1. Raise standards of student performance and musicianship by inspiring students
  - To become performers of the highest musicality
  - To learn that interest in music is shared with peers
  - To know that best efforts in music are rewarded intrinsically, and sometimes extrinsically
  - To encourage musical goals through an adjudicated experience, where winning is not the goal
  - To participate in competitive and/or non-competitive performances in a comprehensive program with broad examination areas
2. Promote higher levels of teaching by:
  - Creating awareness of the important function of the independent music teacher
  - Promoting professional interest in CSMTA and MTNA
  - Motivating teachers to improve their teaching performance by preparing students for these activities using the standards of these student activities as a guide

## EVENT CHAIRS

Achievement Day: [Amy Watt](#) email: [amy@amywattpiano.com](mailto:amy@amywattpiano.com)

Concerto Competition: [Dr. Stephanie Cheng](#) email: [Stephanie.Cheng@du.edu](mailto:Stephanie.Cheng@du.edu)

Rising Stars: [Amy Lee, NCTM](#) email: [amy@pianopassionato.com](mailto:amy@pianopassionato.com)

Student Theory Activity: [Grace Christus](#) email: [grace\\_christus@yahoo.com](mailto:grace_christus@yahoo.com)

Master Class Activity: [Jill Ice, NCTM](#) email: [jill@icepianostudio.com](mailto:jill@icepianostudio.com)

Colorado State MTNA Competitions: [Elizabeth Leger](#) email: [eleger24@gmail.com](mailto:eleger24@gmail.com)

## INFORMATION &amp; RULES

## Information and Rules For All CSMTA Activities

CSMTA provides student competitions and related activities to students of CSMTA member and non-member teachers. The students activities are divided into two parts:

1. CSMTA activities, under CSMTA activity chairs
2. MTNA activities, under MTNA activity chairs and coordinators

The chairs and coordinators for MTNA State Activities and CSMTA Activities serve under the CSMTA Vice President for Student Activities.

### The following rules apply to CSMTA Student Activities:

1. Teachers entering the Rising Stars or Concerto Competition with students who have studied the entry discipline with them fewer than eight months preceding the entry deadline, must list the former teacher on the entry form. Both the current and former teacher will receive equal recognition.
2. Teachers of students participating in any of the student activities must be available to assist with the administration of the activity, or find a substitute who can take their place.
3. Teachers (not the student, parent or activity chair) are responsible for completing and submitting the necessary fees and forms by the deadline. If paying by check, the teacher will submit ONE check to CSMTA for all entry fees. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted. Online entries are available on the CSMTA website.
4. Teachers and parents must make every effort to avoid contact with the judges during the activity and avoid any association with their students in the presence of the judges. The decision of the judge(s) is final.
5. Music, with measures numbered and no identifying names showing, must be provided for judges in all instrumental and vocal events, except in the Concerto Competition. No scores need to be provided for the Concerto Competition.
6. All entrants and accompanists must abide by the Federal Copyright Law. Photocopies are strongly discouraged. Entrants and accompanists using photocopies or PDFs downloaded from the Internet may be asked to complete the Music Release Form verifying that they have permission to use this music. Detailed information about the Copyright Law is available at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org).
7. Flash cameras are prohibited in the performance area of any CSMTA or MTNA sponsored event or recital. Parents may discreetly use a camera without a flash, a video camera, or a phone for their own child or legal ward.
8. Beginning in 2019, teachers must either renew their CSMTA membership or join CSMTA prior to December 1 in order to receive CSMTA's member pricing on CSMTA student events for that academic year. Teachers who join after December 1 will be subject to non-member event fees.
9. Non-member teachers entering students in any of the activities are required to pay a non-member entry fee of \$50 per event by the entry deadline.
10. Students of non-members are required to pay 1½ times the student entry fee by the entry deadline.
11. Circumstances may arise during an event where students may be asked to perform earlier than their scheduled time. Students are encouraged, but not required to comply.
12. No refunds will be given under any circumstances once an application or registration has been submitted.
13. Failure to follow these, and specific event rules, may result in the disqualification of the student.

## ACHIEVEMENT DAY

# Achievement Day

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/achievementday](http://www.comusicteachers.net/achievementday)

Application deadline: determined by each Local Association

Event date: determined by each Local Association

Event location: determined by each Local Association

Event chair: Amy Watt [amy@amywattpiano.com](mailto:amy@amywattpiano.com)

## Purpose

1. To recognize and encourage achievement in music study in a non-competitive performance event
2. To encourage students to prepare and display individual music related talents by selecting from several options
3. To support and guide the teachers in the effort to provide a quality music education for each student

## Event Description and Procedure

Achievement Day is open to music students of all ages and abilities on any instrument or voice. There are a variety of levels that start from preparatory up to level 12.

Each student performs privately in front of an evaluator. Students may enter as solo players or as part of an ensemble (see “Ensemble for Achievement Day” below). Upon completion of all Achievement Day activities, students receive a certificate, written comments from the evaluator, and graded tests.

Ensemble is a separate category with all students who are Achievement Day entrants and complete all Achievement Day options: two piano students, or two or more students in a chamber group, or two or more students in a vocal ensemble, one student vocalist with a student accompanist. Teachers or non-participating students or adults may not accompany an ensemble, but may perform with them in the Collaborative Option (C.5). The Collaborative Option (C.5) offers the opportunity for the Achievement Day student to perform with another Achievement Day student, OR, any teacher, adult or non-achievement day student.

Local associations are encouraged to offer “Super Achiever” status by awarding medals or ribbons to students who meet the criteria described below.

## Levels and Detailed Guidelines

Levels and detailed guidelines are available at the CSM TA website: [www.comusicteachers.net/AchievementDay](http://www.comusicteachers.net/AchievementDay).

## Student Requirements and Procedures

Students perform two pieces:

1. Students may perform two solo pieces, or two ensemble pieces as part of an ensemble (see “Ensemble for Achievement Day” below).
2. Memorization is required for one solo piece, but is optional for the second solo piece (see repertoire guidelines for levels). Ensemble entrants are not required to memorize their pieces.
3. Students name the key of each piece.
4. Students perform the pentascale or scale (as appropriate) for each piece.
5. Students complete a minimum of two options, chosen from the Options list below.

## ACHIEVEMENT DAY

## Options

Options do not have to be at the same level as a student's performance level. Detailed guidelines for options are available at [www.comusicteachers.net/AchievementDay](http://www.comusicteachers.net/AchievementDay).

A. TECHNIQUE OPTIONS	
A. 1 Scales	See detailed guidelines on website
A. 2 Arpeggios	See detailed guidelines on website
A. 3 Chords	See detailed guidelines on website
B. MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE OPTIONS	
B. 1 Theory Tests	See detailed guidelines on website
B. 2 Terms & Signs Tests	See detailed guidelines on website
B. 3 Ear Training Test	See detailed guidelines on website
B. 4 History Test	See detailed guidelines on website
C. RELATED OPTIONS	
C. 1 Additional Piece	Students perform an additional piece. Memorization is optional.
C. 2 Sight Reading	See detailed guidelines on website
C. 3 Improvisation	See detailed guidelines on website
C. 4 Play from a lead sheet	See detailed guidelines on website
C. 5 Collaborative Performance	Students prepare and perform a piece with another instrumentalist or vocalist.
C. 6 Performance on a 2nd Instrument	Students prepare and perform on an instrument different from the one used for required pieces.
C. 7 Transposition	See detailed guidelines on website
C. 8 Original Composition	See detailed guidelines on website
C. 9 Written Project	Students prepare a report, research paper, poem, story or other written project.
C. 10 Art or Constructed Project	Students prepare a creative project related to music.
C. 11 Dance	Students prepare and perform a dance.
C. 12 Other	Students prepare something not listed above. Can be used by Local Associations for additional activities.

## Super Achiever Award

Local Associations may adjust the "Super Achiever" requirements as needed. To receive the Super Achiever status, students must:

1. Perform the required two pieces and receive a 'PASS' in a pass/fail grading system
2. Complete 4 options, including at least one Technique Option and at least one Musical Knowledge option
3. Receive a 'PASS' in Technique Options and Related Options in a pass/fail grading system
4. Score 80% or higher in Musical Knowledge Options

## ACHIEVEMENT DAY

## Ensembles for Achievement Day

Students have the option of entering Achievement Day as part of a student ensemble. Ensembles receive an Ensemble Certificate.

- An ensemble is defined as two or more student performers. All students must be Achievement Day participants. Teachers or other adults (unless they are students entering Achievement Day) may not accompany or participate in an ensemble.
- Each student in the ensemble enters in their individual level and completes options accordingly.
- Ensembles are evaluated as a group and receive one evaluation, but each student receives a certificate.
- Ensembles perform 2 selections.
- There is no memorization requirement.
- Students earn an ensemble certificate and a solo certificate if performing both an ensemble program and a solo program for Achievement Day. Performing option C. 5 (Collaborative Performance) within a solo program does not qualify for an ensemble certificate.
- Certificates will reflect the level of the individual but will read “Ensemble” on the instrument line.

## Certificates

Certificates of accomplishment featuring the CSMTA President’s signature are available to local Achievement Day Chairs for printing and distribution to students at their local events.

## Local Associations’ Responsibilities

Each Local Association is responsible for all details of their Achievement Day including:

1. Assigning a chair
2. Coordinating the event by setting up the date and place
3. Preparing certificates
4. Coordinating evaluators
5. Establishing fees
6. Having all participants fill out a media consent form
7. Sending a final report to the CSMTA Achievement Day Chair following the event
  - Number of students participating
  - Number of teachers entering students
  - Entry fee charged
  - Number of students taking each option
  - Number of Super Achievers and how they are rewarded
  - Special procedures or events unique to that Local Association
  - Sharing photos of the event to be displayed in the CSMTA newsletter

The Local Association Achievement Day Chair may obtain samples of registration forms, evaluation sheets, certificates, study guides, and practice tests from the CSMTA website.

Each association may modify Achievement Day guidelines to accommodate its needs.

## Support from CSMTA

For questions regarding Achievement Day, contact the CSMTA Achievement Day Chair at [amy@amywattpiano.com](mailto:amy@amywattpiano.com).

For questions regarding accessing the website, contact the CSMTA Website Coordinator at [CSMTA@comusicteachers.net](mailto:CSMTA@comusicteachers.net)

## CONCERTO COMPETITION

# CSMTA Concerto Competition

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/concertocompetition](http://www.comusicteachers.net/concertocompetition)

Ages: 8-19, until high school graduation (piano), 13-19, until high school graduation (winds and percussion)

Online application deadline: March 1, 2024

Winner announcement: March 22, 2024

Winners' concert date: May 4, 2024

Winners' concert orchestra: Boulder Chamber Orchestra (<https://www.boulderchamberorchestra.com/>)

Event chair: Dr. Stephanie Cheng email: [Stephanie.Cheng@du.edu](mailto:Stephanie.Cheng@du.edu)

## Student Concerto Competition Guidelines

The CSMTA Concerto Competition provides an opportunity for students to perform a concerto with a live orchestra. The competition has 3 piano categories held on an annual basis, and a rotating instrumental and vocal category with the following schedule: strings and voice in odd-numbered years, and winds/percussion (one category) in even-numbered years. The Non-Piano Instruments and Voice competitions are for students ages 13 through 19 before high school graduation.

Competition applications will be done entirely through unedited recorded videos with links to YouTube. Teachers are allowed to accompany their own students, provided that they are not visible or identifiable in the video. General rules and information are found on page 4 of the *Student Activities Handbook*.

Exception: Scores do not need to be provided to the adjudicators. Entry fees, application forms, dates and repertoire requirements will be administered by the CSMTA Concerto Committee which shall include a chair person and two other members. This committee shall also choose the orchestra and make all the appropriate arrangements. Concerto Competition information shall be published in the CSMTA *Notes & News* and/or on the CSMTA website at least six months in advance. Students of non-member teachers in any of the CSMTA Concerto Competition categories are required to pay a non-member fee 1 1/2 times the student entry fee by the entry deadline.

CSMTA is excited to partner with the Boulder Chamber Orchestra for the 2024 Concerto Competition Winners' Concert. Winners will perform with the Boulder Chamber Orchestra in their final concert of 2023-24 Season: May 4, 2024, at 8:00pm, at Boulder Adventist Church, 345 Mapleton Avenue, Boulder.

(<https://www.boulderchamberorchestra.com/concerts/event-four-laf7y-9cgxx-nfnkb-yy3ss>).

## Student Eligibility

### Elementary Performance

Age: 8–10 as of January 1, 2024

Competition: Piano

### Junior Performance

Age: 11–14 as of January 1, 2024

Competition: Piano

### Senior Performance

Age: 15–19 (until high school graduation) as of January 1, 2024

Competition: Piano

### Non-Piano Entries

Age: 13 - 19 (until high school graduation) as of January 1, 2024

- Winds and Percussion 2024
- Strings and Voice 2025

## CONCERTO COMPETITION

## CSMTA Concerto Competition Repertoire

Repertoire for the competition shall be chosen by the CSMTA Concerto Committee in conjunction with the conductor of the chosen orchestra. The final decision will be made by the CSMTA Concerto Competition Committee. The concerto literature will be primarily standard repertoire.

1. Repertoire will be published in the *Notes & News* and the CSMTA website at least six months prior to the performance.
2. Any edition or cadenza may be used unless otherwise specified.
3. Application forms are available on the CSMTA website: [www.comusicteachers.net/concertocompetition](http://www.comusicteachers.net/concertocompetition)

## CSMTA Concerto Competition Accompanists

Students must provide their own accompanists.

## CSMTA Concerto Competition Rules

1. The decision of the adjudicators is final.
  2. One winner will be chosen from each category by a panel of three, which includes two adjudicators and the orchestra director. Ties will not be allowed.
  3. Honorable mention may be chosen but will not perform with the orchestra.
  4. Winners must comply with the orchestra conductor's wishes for the performance or forfeit the opportunity to perform with the orchestra.
  5. A winner may not participate at the same level again. However, winners of the 2023 CSMTA Concerto Competition are eligible to enter the competition in 2024 in the same category (if the student's age appropriately falls within the category).
  6. CSMTA is not responsible for any personal expenses of contestants or winners.
  7. Submissions must be made as A SINGLE TAKE FROM BEGINNING TO END. Performances that have edits of any kind, including where sections from different performances have been patched together, will be disqualified.
  8. Competition applications will be done entirely through unedited recorded videos through YouTube.
  9. In each category, judges are asked to choose a winner and an alternate. Honorable mention(s) may be awarded at the judges' discretion. Winners will perform in concert with a local orchestra. A winner need not be declared if, in the opinion of the majority of the judges, the level of performance is not considered acceptable for performance with orchestra.
  10. The piano and vocal division entrants will perform from memory, and memorization for the winds/percussion and strings division is optional.
  11. Should a Winner in the CSMTA Concerto Competition be unable to perform with the orchestra, the Alternate may perform with the orchestra, subject to the judges' recommendation.
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## RISING STARS FESTIVAL

# The Rising Stars Festival

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/risingstars](http://www.comusicteachers.net/risingstars)

Registration deadline: March 16, 2024

Event date: April 20, 2024

Event location: Lamont School of Music, University of Denver

Ages: 6-19 (until high school graduation)

Event Chair: Amy Lee, NCTM [amy@pianopassionato.com](mailto:amy@pianopassionato.com)

## Event Description

The Rising Stars Festival is open to students of CSMTA member teachers, non-CSMTA member teachers, and CSMTA collegiate members.

1. There are two categories:
  - Competitive Stars
  - Non-competitive Stars
2. Students, ages 6 through 19 (until high school graduation) are eligible to participate. Divisional age brackets are determined by the student's age as of the registration deadline date.
3. Students' performances are adjudicated, and they will receive written comments and certificates of participation.
4. First place winners in the Competitive Stars Category will be invited to perform in the Rising Stars Winners Showcase at the annual CSMTA Conference.
5. Students may enter either Competitive Stars or Non-competitive Stars, but not both with the same instrument, in the same year.
6. First place winners in the Competitive category may not compete again at the same level the following year. However, they ARE able to compete two years later in the same division. (For example, if a 6 year old wins the Lower Elementary division, then that student may not compete the following year at age 7 but CAN compete in the Lower Elementary division again at age 8.)
7. First place ensemble winners cannot compete in the same division ensemble category the following year. Similar to the solo competitive divisions though, students ARE eligible to compete again in the same division two years later.
8. As of 2022, judges may recognize outstanding performances with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award. Students who perform repertoire selection(s) by a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) composer and/or a female composer will be eligible to receive a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award. This will be open to both the competitive and non-competitive categories. All students who perform works by DEI composers will receive an extra gold seal on their certificate. Students who have outstanding performances of works by DEI composers can be selected to receive a DEI medal.

## Registration Forms

- Registration forms for both Competitive Stars and Non-competitive Star categories are available online at the CSMTA website: [www.comusicteachers.net/RisingStars](http://www.comusicteachers.net/RisingStars)
- Registration and payment must be completed by the deadline.
- Students of non-member teachers will pay a registration fee that is 1.5 times the student registration fee for students of CSMTA member teachers.
- Musiclink students pay 50% of the registration fee.
- In the unlikely event of a cancellation of the Rising Stars Festival, no refunds will be given.

## RISING STARS FESTIVAL

## Teacher Requirements

1. The rules on page 4 of this handbook apply to this event.
2. Teachers of participating students must pay dues according to the rules on page 4.
3. Non-member teachers must pay a \$50 entry fee by the entry deadline.
4. All participating teachers are required to be available to assist with the event.
  - Teachers will be assigned a duty for the day of the festival. Teachers unable to fulfill their work assignment must secure a qualified substitute and notify the Rising Stars Festival chair.
  - Failure to assist on the day of the festival, or to provide a qualified substitute, may result in the teacher being disqualified from entering students in CSMTA student events for one year.
5. Teachers and parents must avoid contact with the adjudicator(s) and may not assist the entrants during the performance (including the student's warmup time). To do so may result in disqualification.
6. Judge's decisions are final.

## Divisions

The competitive and non-competitive categories are broken into four divisions as follows

1. Solo Piano
2. Solo Voice
3. Solo Instrumental
  - Includes Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Guitar, Harp, and Percussion
4. Ensemble: The ensemble category consists of 2-6 student performers. All participants are judged. Examples include one piano/2-8 hands, 2 pianos/4-8 hands, piano/vocal/instrumental duets, trios, and quartets, solos with student piano accompaniment, or any combination of instruments noted above.

## Literature for Competitive and Non-competitive Rising Stars Categories

Descriptions for each division are listed below. No change in repertoire is allowed after the registration deadline. In the event the repertoire is not accepted, the teacher and the student will be asked to change the repertoire. Students who perform repertoire selection(s) by a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) composer and/or a female composer will be eligible to receive a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Award.

By entering the competitions you agree to abide by all Federal Copyright Laws. See page 4 #6 for further instructions regarding photocopies. Students must bring an original score or have proof of legally purchased and printed music from online. Photocopies will not be accepted and are grounds for disqualification.

### Solo Piano Division

- Each student performs two selections of contrasting styles from different composers. Both selections may be from the same period.
- Both pieces must be performed by memory.
- Pieces should be standard repertoire, originally composed for solo piano.
- Arrangements of orchestral works, film and movie music are not allowed. (Example: Movements from the Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky.)
- Transcriptions by a major composer of original works for solo piano, voice and piano, and violin by another major composer are acceptable. (Example: Chaconne by Bach/Busoni, The Lark by Glinka/Balakirev, Widmung by Schumann/Liszt. etc.)

## RISING STARS FESTIVAL

- Pieces by pedagogical composers (Martha Mier, Wynn-Anne Rossi, Margaret Goldston, Christopher Norton, Denis Alexander, Timothy Brown, and others) are permitted. Pieces from lesson books (Alfred, Hal Leonard, Faber & Faber, and others) are not permitted.
- Folk, pop, and movie music is not permitted.
- Movements of a Sonata, Suite, or the like, is considered one selection.
- A Theme and Variations must be performed in its entirety and is considered one selection.
- “A Prelude and a Fugue” is considered as one selection. Just one of them (only Prelude, or only Fugue) is also acceptable as one selection.
- No repeats other than *D. C. al Fine*, *D. S. al Fine*, and *D. S. al Coda*.

## Solo Voice Division

- Each student performs two standard literature selections (folk songs, art songs, early Italian arias, and theater) by two different composers that are contrasting in style.
- Both songs must be performed by memory.
- Students in the senior level are encouraged to perform one song originally written in English and one song in a language other than English.
- Arrangements and piano reductions are allowed.
- No pop or rock tunes are permitted.
- If the songs are strophic, all verses are to be sung. (If the words are exactly the same, there is no need to do the repeat.)
- Teachers may accompany their own students.

## Solo Instrumental Division

- Each student performs two selections of contrasting styles from different composers. Both selections may be from the same period.
- At least one piece must be performed by memory.
- Literature must be standard, original solo repertoire by established composers.
- Movements of a Sonata, Suite, or the like, are considered one selection.
- A Theme and Variations must be performed in its entirety and is considered one selection.
- A movement of a concerto is acceptable.
- Folk, pop, and movie music is not permitted.
- Teachers may accompany their own students.
- No repeats other than *D. C. al Fine*, *D. S. al Fine*, and *D. S. al Coda*.

## Ensemble Division

- Each ensemble performs two selections of contrasting styles from different composers. Both selections may be from the same period.
- Pieces originally composed for ensembles are highly encouraged, but arrangements of highly recognized standard literature are also acceptable.
- Folk, pop, and movie music is not permitted.
- Students may perform with music.

## Levels, Performance Time Limits

Competitive and non-competitive students are divided into levels according to their age on the day of the registration deadline, and their performances are adjudicated within their age level. The performance time limit varies depending on the level, as stated in the chart below. The level of an ensemble group is determined by the average age of the players. First place winners in the Competitive category may not compete again in the same division the following year. Please see the next page for specific age requirements and time limits for each category.

*Please see next page for specific age requirements and time limits for each category.*

## RISING STARS FESTIVAL

Level	Ages	Time Limit/Minutes
Lower Elementary	6-8	6
Upper Elementary	9-11	8
Junior	12-14	12
Lower Senior	15-16	15
Upper Senior	17-19 Non-collegiate	15

## Competitive Rising Stars Category

### Technical Requirements

1. There are no technical requirements in any division.
2. Optional: Students are permitted one minute of warm-up. Teachers and parents may not assist the student in the warm-up or performance.

### Adjudication

- A panel of three judges will be used if there are more than five participants in a level.
- Judges may choose UP to three winners (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place) and one honorable mention in each level.
- Students who have outstanding performances of works by DEI composers can be selected to receive a DEI medal.
- Judges do not have to choose a winner in a level.
- Music will be stopped at the maximum time limit, and the student will not be penalized.
- Students may choose the order of their pieces/songs.
  - o Preliminary Rounds
    1. Up to 35% may be chosen for Finals.
    2. Auditions are open format.
    3. There may be only one round in each level, depending on the number of entries.
  - o Finals
    1. Final rounds are open format.
    2. Students/teachers choose one piece/song from their program to perform.
    3. First place winners in all competitive divisions will be invited to perform in the Rising Stars Winners Showcase held at the 2024 CSMTA State Conference.

### Awards

- First, second and third place winners receive trophies.
- Honorable mention receives a medal.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Award: Students performing works by BIPOC, women, or otherwise underrepresented composers will be eligible for this award. All students will receive a gold seal on their certificates. Outstanding performances as selected by judges will receive a medal.
- Certificates are given to all participants.
- Each member of an ensemble will receive a trophy or a medal.
- The first place winner may not compete at the same level again the following year.
- Additional special awards may be introduced and included for any Festival year.

## RISING STARS FESTIVAL

## Non-competitive Rising Stars Category

### Technical Requirements

1. There are no technical requirements in any division.
2. Optional: Students are permitted one minute of warm-up. Teachers and parents may not assist the student in the warm-up or performance.

### Adjudication

1. Each student's solo performance is critiqued by one judge.
2. Each ensemble's performance is critiqued by one judge.
3. The judge will write comments for each piece, and give each student a rating of Superior, Excellent, or Good.
4. The event is open format.

### Awards

- Students receive ribbons based on the judge's rating:
  - o Superior earns a Blue Ribbon
  - o Excellent earns a Red Ribbon
  - o Good earns a White Ribbon
- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award*: Students performing works by BIPOC, women, or otherwise underrepresented composers will be eligible for this award. All students will receive a gold seal on their certificates. Outstanding performances as selected by judges will receive a medal.
- Certificates are given to all participating students.
- Additional special awards may be introduced and included for any Festival year.

### Miscellaneous Items for both Competitive and Non-Competitive Stars

A Photo release waiver will be on hand at all awards ceremonies. Photos are taken of winners in each division, and parents and/or legal guardians need to sign the waiver form for CSMTA to be able to use the photos taken at the awards ceremonies.

An IMSLP/digital music waiver will need to be completed at the front desk upon check-in if students are bringing legally purchased/printed music from online. These forms are NOT to be used for photocopies. Photocopies are not permitted for any event at Rising Stars and are grounds for disqualification.

Teachers must commit to volunteering at the festival when they enter students. If a substitute is secured in place of the teacher, then teachers need to inform the substitute of the requirements for that particular volunteer position. ONLY teachers may volunteer as inside room monitors - no parent or student substitutes can be used for that position.

### Rising Stars Team

- Festival Chairperson
  - Facilities Coordinator
  - Adjudication Coordinator
  - Hospitality Coordinator
  - Volunteer Coordinator
  - Awards Coordinator
  - Repertoire Approval Committee
-

## STUDENT THEORY ACTIVITY

# CSMTA Student Theory Activity (STA)

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/sta](http://www.comusicteachers.net/sta)

Online registration deadline: March 16, 2024

Event date: April 20, 2024

Event location: Lamont School of Music

STA Chair: Grace Christus [grace\\_christus@yahoo.com](mailto:grace_christus@yahoo.com)

## Purpose

The purpose of Theory Assessment is to stimulate and recognize theory competency among all Colorado music students. Study Guides, sample test questions, and workbooks are available from Keynote Independent Theory Service (KITS) and are suitable for piano, voice and instruments other than piano. Test levels range from Primary to Advanced ("step" levels Primary through Step 6) and are based on knowledge, not age. Tests are appropriate for 2nd year students through advanced high school students. Tests include a written exam demonstrating notational reading skills; and beginning with Step 1, a listening and playing test, which correspond to the "step"—the level—the teacher has determined for the student. For further information about the KITS music theory program, please visit the KITS website, [www.keynotetheory.com](http://www.keynotetheory.com).

Students will receive a Certificate of Participation from CSMTA as well as a Certificate of Merit from the KITS program. Students may earn CSMTA STA medals for scores of excellence: bronze for 80-89%, silver for 90-94%, gold 95% and above. Students earning 90% and above will be listed on the State Honor Roll, the CSMTA Website, and the summer *Notes & News*. Students may test at the location and date listed above or at a participating local association.

## Applications and Description Information

- CSMTA is using the theory tests and related materials developed by the Keynote Independent Theory Service (KITS) by Christine A. Murrow. For more complete information on this program, please refer to [www.keynotetheory.com](http://www.keynotetheory.com). Study materials are available through amazon.com (search for KITS, Christine Murrow), Barnes and Noble, or directly from Keynote Independent Theory Service.
- For STA testing at Rising Stars Festival, teachers must order tests from the State Theory Chair through the CSMTA website: [www.comusicteachers.net/sta](http://www.comusicteachers.net/sta). Registrations and payment are due on March 16, 2024. For Local Association testing, see guidelines below.

## Teacher Eligibility and Entry Fees

- Teachers of participating students must pay dues according to rules on page 4.
- Teachers are required to help on the testing date where their student is testing and to commit to remaining in the testing area to perform the assigned task. Assistance is needed either with registration/proctoring, grading exams, or listening to the performance of scales and cadences portion of the test. Specific duties will be assigned by the State Theory Chair.
- CSMTA member teachers entering students in STA at the Rising Star festival will pay \$10 per test to CSMTA. The STA chair will order tests based on registrations received via the website by the registration deadline. Non-member teachers entering students in STA at the Rising Star Festival should contact the STA chair at [grace\\_christus@yahoo.com](mailto:grace_christus@yahoo.com), to arrange registration and payment by the registration deadline.

## STUDENT THEORY ACTIVITY

- Students of non-member teachers pay a registration fee that is 1 1/2 times the student registration fee for students of member teachers.
- These rules and all rules listed on page 4 of this *Student Activities Handbook* must be followed. Failure to do so will result in the disqualification of the student.

## Guidelines for Local/Regional Theory Testing

1. All KITS tests for students testing at Rising Star Festivals are ordered and provided through the CSMTA Theory Chair. Please use the CSTMA website as noted above. Registration and payment are due by deadline (see page 15).
2. To host Local Association (LA) STA testing, please appoint a LA STA Chair. The LA STA Chair must contact the CSMTA STA Chair in a timely manner prior to registration to establish a LA testing event. The CSMTA STA Chair will provide documents and instruction for LA STA testing.
3. Registration for LA STA Testing is completed through the LA STA Chair at the association level. Registration must include KITS tests and CSMTA award costs. Contact CSMTA STA Chair for information. After testing, LA STA Chair will submit an application form and payment for earned CSMTA STA awards. The LA must cover shipping and handling of awards. LA STA testing MUST be completed in April to be eligible for CSMTA STA awards. Application for awards must be submitted to the state STA Chair no later than May 15, 2024.
4. KITS Exams are not sold between September and March to ensure fairness in testing; however, they may be preordered. Please see KITS website for details. KITS awards are available to students as well. Teachers must work directly through KITS for these honors. See the KITS website for more details and protocol.

## MASTER CLASS ACTIVITY

## MASTER CLASS ACTIVITY

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/masterclass](http://www.comusicteachers.net/masterclass)

Event date: October 19, 2024

Location: Hoag Hall, University of Colorado, Pueblo

Application deadline: September 8, 2024

Event chair: Jill Ice, NCTM [jill@icepianostudio.com](mailto:jill@icepianostudio.com)

CSMTA provides an opportunity for students to perform in a Master Class at each annual CSMTA State Conference. Check the CSMTA website for updates regarding CSMTA State Conference Master Classes. Line items 2, 4, and 10 on page 4 of this publication need not apply to Master Class Activity at State Conferences.

CSMTA teachers are invited to submit an application on behalf of their intermediate and early advanced students for inclusion in the 2024 masterclass event. To register, access the application form by visiting the masterclass page on the [CSMTA website](http://www.comusicteachers.net/masterclass).

## MTNA COMPETITION

# MTNA Performance and Composition Competition

Info & forms: <https://www.comusicteachers.net/mtnacompetition>

Ages: 11-26 (performance), 5-26 (composition), 18-29 (chamber music) on January 1, 2024

Deadline for all applications: Wednesday, September 13, 3:00pm Eastern Time (1:00pm MST) via link below:

<https://members.mtna.org/mtnacompetitions2023/Registration/>

Composition scores due: Wednesday, September 13, 3:00pm

Performance competition date: Saturday, October 21, 2023

Performance competition location: University of Colorado Boulder

Event Chair: Elizabeth Leger [eleger24@gmail.com](mailto:eleger24@gmail.com)

## Purpose

The MTNA Student Competitions consist of three rounds: State Competition, Division Competition, and National Finals. Competitions are offered in performance and composition, and are open to members and non-members. Entry deadline is September 13, 2023 at 3:00pm EST for all categories. Please check the CSMTA website for updates and details.

## Students enter a category by age:

Elementary (composition only)	Age 5-10 on January 1, 2024
Junior	Age 11-14 on January 1, 2024
Senior	Age 15-18 on January 1, 2024
Young Artist	Age 19-26 on January 1, 2024
Chamber	Average age of group: 18-29 on January 1, 2024

## Competition Categories:

Composition	Elementary, Junior, Senior, Young Artist
Performance	
String:	Junior, Senior, Young Artist
Piano:	Junior, Senior, Young Artist
Woodwind:	Junior, Senior, Young Artist
Brass	Senior, Young Artist
Voice	Senior, Young Artist
Piano Duet (1P/4H)	Senior

## Competition Stages:

Round 1: MTNA State Competition - CSMTA

Each state association is responsible for holding and staffing the first round of competitions. CSMTA holds its MTNA Competition in October or November and volunteers are needed to help with monitoring, registration and hospitality.

Round 2: West Central Division Competition (video-only round)

Round 3: National Competition Finals

One Winner and/or Representative in each category from each Division in the United States competes at the National Finals at MTNA Conference in March. Final winners in each category perform and are announced at the MTNA Conference. The national finals will take place at the 2024 MTNA National Conference on March 16-20, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia

## MTNA COMPETITION

## Composer/Period Classification List

CSMTA is no longer printing the entire Composer Classification List in the Student Activities Handbook. To find the most current list please visit: [https://www.mtna.org/downloads/Competitions/Composer\\_Classifications\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mtna.org/downloads/Competitions/Composer_Classifications_2020.pdf)

## Competition Guidelines

- Performance judges are paid \$45 per hour with a minimum of \$90.00.
  - Beginning 2021, MTNA Colorado Composition judges will receive per each composition reviewed for comments: Elementary Division - \$20.00, Junior division - \$30.00, Senior and Young Artist Divisions - \$40.00.
  - The State Composition Coordinator is responsible for requisitioning and mailing payment to the Composition Judge(s). Judges will not be provided with mileage reimbursement.
  - Representatives (single entrant in category) may be offered the opportunity to perform for comments at the MTNA State Competitions.
  - Winners and Representatives from the Colorado State MTNA Performance and Composition Competitions will be invited to the MTNA Winners Recital at the CSMTA Annual Conference. The Alternate will be invited to perform if they competed at West Central Division because the Winner was unable to compete.
  - \$100 will be awarded to each Colorado state winner and representative of the MTNA Competition, to be applied towards their online application and recording submission for the MTNA division competition. The \$100 will be awarded to each state winner upon confirmation from MTNA of their submission to the division level of the competition and submission of an invoice to the CSMTA treasurer for incurred expenses for recording services
  - A competition winner will receive a \$200 travel stipend if they perform at the MTNA Finals. Travel is not required for State Competitions.
  - Travel stipends are not paid to students when the Final Competitions are held in Colorado.
  - MTNA active membership dues must be paid by teachers before submission of the application. A \$150 nonmember teacher fee will be assessed if entrant's teacher has not paid active membership dues for the 2023–2024 membership year.
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