

Updated September 8, 2023

2023 MMTA AUDITIONS HANDBOOK

MMTA Honors Auditions & MTNA Competitions

- District Auditions: Completed by September 24, 2023
 - State Auditions: November 2 - 5, 2023
University of Missouri – Kansas City

Find the latest MMTA Audition info online at
<https://missourimta.org/>

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COMPETITIONS / AUDITIONS OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

One of MMTA's goals is to create the musicians and audiences of the future. Competitions and auditions can play an important role in this process, helping to bring out the best in young musicians by giving them the chance to perform alongside the best young musicians from across the state. These events are "competitions" in the sense that ratings are given and winners chosen. But they are not competitions in the sense of being confrontational or antagonistic. We do our best to make the events a positive growth experience for everyone involved. Making good music is important; in comparison with that, winning a trophy, medal, or certificate isn't very important at all. There are two distinct types of performance competitions that MMTA runs: MTNA Competitions and MMTA Honors Auditions.

ABOUT THE MTNA COMPETITIONS

The Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Competitions are national in scope. The Missouri Music Teachers Association (MMTA) runs the Missouri State level MTNA competitions. The winners from the state MTNA competitions proceed to the Division level, which is by video submission; Divisional winners compete at the MTNA National Conference. The performance level of MTNA entrants is generally very high, and a program of substantial length is required. Because of the high level and large repertoire required, relatively few competitors enter in each age group and medium.

Rules and deadlines for the national MTNA Competitions are set by MTNA. The details are given in the April/May issue of *American Music Teacher* and in the Competition section of MTNA's web site, MTNA.org. For the most part, Missouri state MTNA auditions must simply follow the rules, procedures, and deadlines set forth by MTNA. A few specific guidelines and a list of contacts for the Missouri state MTNA competitions are given in the "MTNA Performance and Composition Competitions" (see page 15 below).

Many of the MTNA competitions are underwritten by corporations and so are named after the sponsor. MTNA competitions are divided into three main levels by age: Junior, Senior, and Young Artist.

ABOUT THE MMTA HONORS AUDITIONS

MMTA Honors Auditions were created to allow a very broad participation of students. With few restrictions, music students of *any* age, *any* level of experience, and *any* performing medium (instrument or voice, solo or ensemble) are eligible to participate. Although winners are chosen and ratings given, MMTA Honors Auditions are specifically designed to be a positive experience and a learning opportunity for *all* students who enter them. Pre-collegiate entrants in MMTA Honors Auditions first play in the District Auditions, which are held in late September. District Audition participants receive a rating of I, II, III, IV, or V. Those receiving a I rating may play in the State Auditions, which are held in late October or early November each year. There are no District Auditions for Collegiate MMTA Honors Auditions participants. Collegiate MMTA Honors Auditions participants proceed directly to the State Auditions. Rules and procedures for the MMTA Honors Auditions are given in the section "MMTA DISTRICT and STATE HONORS AUDITIONS" below.

MMTA DISTRICT AND STATE HONORS AUDITIONS

1. Deadlines and audition dates:
 - District Application Deadlines: September 8th (Friday)
 - District Auditions: Varies by district - will be completed by September 24, 2023
 - State Application Deadline: What about October 9th (Monday)
 - State Auditions: Nov 2 – 5, 2023 at University of Missouri – Kansas City
2. The student entry fees for both collegiate and pre-collegiate STATE auditions will be \$40.
3. Auditions fees are \$35 for all districts.
4. The memorization requirement for all levels of the MMTA pre-collegiate auditions is on page 9.
5. All auditions information is located at www.missourimta.org. When registration opens in mid-August, online links will be available at this site for registration and payment. Make sure that you fill out the registration information carefully and indicate the correct grade and district to ensure that the competitor is placed in the correct category through all levels of competition.
6. Online payment is preferred, but if needed, a check can instead be mailed to the Executive Secretary. Please email/call in advance so that they know you are doing so.

MMTA TEACHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUDITIONS:

Deadlines, fees, applications

Pre-Collegiate Auditions

1. Follow online instructions for registering online (<http://www.missourimta.org/www.missourimta.org>). Ensure that you register by the deadline of September 8th, 2023, for all district auditions.
2. All teachers must pay online at www.missourimta.org OR mail one check (payable to MMTA) to MMTA's Executive Secretary (c/o Erica Manzo, 3409 Longfords Mill Drive, Columbia, MO, 65203) for the District Auditions fees of \$35 per entry. Send one check with all student fees. There is no teacher fee for the district auditions.
3. District Auditions are set by the district chairs and will be completed by **Sunday, September 24.** Contact your district chair for specific time/venue information. The various district dates will also be published online at www.missourimta.org.
4. **State Auditions:** For students receiving "I" ratings at the district level, follow online instructions for registering online (www.missourimta.org). Then pay online at www.missourimta.org OR send both the student fees (\$40/student) and teacher fee in one check to MMTA's Executive Secretary. Applications after the closing date of October 9th will not be accepted. Teachers that have pre-collegiate and collegiate students participating should only send one teacher fee that covers both.
5. State Honors Piano Auditions (pre-collegiate) are Sunday, November 5, 2023. *Absolutely no exceptions to this date for ANY reason. **Please, no requests for special scheduling consideration.*** Pre-collegiate Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Voice, and String auditions may be on Nov 3 or 4, 2023 (Friday or Saturday).
6. Assist with audition monitoring or other responsibilities at district and state auditions, as assigned by the auditions chair, or find a responsible adult replacement to fulfill these duties.
 - a. **District Auditions.** District Chairs will make assignments to each participating studio. Once the assignments have been made by the District Chair, teachers will then be responsible for completing the given assignment—either by doing it personally or by finding a responsible adult replacement. ***Teachers who do not fulfill the assigned duties will not be allowed to have students participate in auditions the following year.***
 - b. **State Auditions.** Every studio with two or more students participating in the state level MMTA Pre-Collegiate Honors Auditions will be given a specific assignment to help during the state auditions. Teachers may switch times with another teacher or find another responsible adult (no students) to fulfill the assigned duty. ***Teachers who do not fulfill the assigned duties will not be allowed to have students participate in auditions the following year.***

MMTA TEACHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUDITIONS:

Deadlines, fees, applications

Collegiate Auditions

1. Follow online instructions for registering online (www.missourimta.org).
2. All teachers must pay online at www.missourimta.org OR mail one check (payable to MMTA) to MMTA's Executive Secretary for the State Auditions fees of \$40 per entry. Send one check to cover all students' fees and the teacher registration fee. Teachers that have pre-collegiate and collegiate students participating should only send one teacher fee to cover both.
3. Please be sure to indicate COMPLETE repertoire title information, plus appropriate movement or tempo designations.
4. If participants from only one school are registered in any area (brass, organ, etc.), those participants will be notified and given the option of canceling their auditions.
5. Collegiate MMTA Honors Auditions are TENTATIVELY scheduled for November 2 or 3, 2023 (Thursday or Friday) except strings which are TENTATIVELY scheduled for November 4, 2023 (Saturday).

MMTA GENERAL INFORMATION FOR AUDITIONS

1. Students in all performing media are eligible, including ensembles. Piano ensembles must use a single piano only.
2. Students must be studying with a teacher whose MMTA-MTNA dues are paid by the District Audition deadline date for pre-collegiate entries OR by the State Audition deadline date for collegiate entries. Teachers who are not MMTA members may enter students if they pay the Non-member Teacher Fee of \$100 by the same deadlines.
3. Collegiate members of MTNA/MMTA may enter students in the MMTA district and state Honors Auditions if they have paid the collegiate student membership for both state and national organizations by the deadline for the auditions entry. These collegiate members will be expected to pay the registration fee for the state auditions at the collegiate student rate in order to be eligible to enter students in the state auditions. Collegiate students may enter collegiate-level MMTA Honors Auditions or MTNA Competitions themselves and still be eligible to enter their own students in the MMTA Honors Auditions. (Please note this rule applies to MMTA Honors Auditions only—because of MTNA rules, collegiate members are NOT eligible to enter students in the MTNA competitions.)
4. To meet the Missouri residency requirement, one or more of the following must be true:
 - a. The teacher resides in the state of Missouri
 - b. The student resides in the state of Missouri
 - c. The place of music study is in Missouri (for instance, at a Missouri college or university)
5. Collegiate contestants must be Senior High graduates, but they need not be enrolled in a college or university.
6. Students entering MTNA Competitions may not enter the MMTA Honors Auditions in the same performing medium (Please note—this includes both District and State MMTA auditions—MTNA competitors may not enter either level of MMTA auditions, in the same medium).
7. All pre-collegiate MMTA Honors Audition entries MUST begin at the District Auditions. Pre-collegiate students receiving a "I" rating at the District Auditions are eligible to enter the State Auditions in November.
8. All collegiate MMTA Honors Auditions entrants proceed directly to the State Auditions; for collegiate students there are no District Auditions.
9. In the event that a member of an ensemble is not able to perform at the state or district auditions, the ensemble may play with a substitute member (i.e., a teacher or older student) for comments but not for a rating.
10. **NEW: For Chamber Auditions:** All chamber audition candidates, including the pianists, must be in the same grade group.

MMTA REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDITIONS

1. The general repertoire requirement is for the performance of two or three compositions by different composers in contrasting styles or periods. The specific number of compositions and the audition length vary by age group and medium; see below.

NOTE: for the Pre-School and Elementary levels, the two contrasting pieces must be chosen from DIFFERENT method books or DIFFERENT editors. Any questions regarding repertoire should be directed to the District Chair or State competition officials BEFORE the registration deadline.

- **Pre-school (including kindergarten) and Elementary Level (1st through 6th grade)**
Two compositions by different composers in contrasting styles or periods chosen from different method books or different editors. See memorization requirements, below.
 - **Junior High Level (7th, 8th, 9th grade)**
Two compositions in contrasting styles or periods. See memorization requirements, below.
 - **Senior High Level (10th, 11th, 12th grade)**
Two or Three compositions in contrasting styles or periods. See memorization requirements, below.
 - **Collegiate Level (Undergraduate and Graduate):**
Three compositions in contrasting styles or periods. See memorization requirements, below.
2. Concertos are not allowed in piano auditions; however, concertos are allowed in the brass, percussion, string, and woodwind auditions.
 3. Simplified arrangements will not be accepted for piano solos.
 4. Sets of variations or multi-movement sonatas or sonatinas may be used as one of the compositions.
 5. For pre-collegiate entrants, repertoire may not be changed between District and State Auditions.
 6. For collegiate entrants, repertoire may not be changed following submission of application.
 7. Students are to provide a reasonably clean copy of the music for the adjudicator **with measures numbered**. Pertinent names (teacher, student, school names) must be removed or concealed.
 8. All entrants and accompanists must abide by the federal copyright law in providing scores used by the performer, accompanist, and/or adjudicator.

MMTA CHAMBER MUSIC AUDITIONS

1. Junior High Level (7th, 8th, 9th grade)
Two compositions in contrasting styles or periods. Time limit is 8 minutes. No memorization requirement.
2. Senior High Level (10th, 11th, 12th grade)
Two compositions in contrasting styles or periods. Time limit is 10 minutes. No memorization requirement.
3. Collegiate Level (Undergraduate and Graduate)
Two compositions in contrasting styles or periods. Time limit is 12 minutes. No memorization requirement.

NOTE: For Chamber Auditions: All chamber audition candidates, including the pianists, must be in the same grade group.

MEMORIZATION REQUIREMENTS AND TIME LIMITS

Pre-Collegiate and Collegiate Levels

All vocal music must be memorized. All piano solo must be memorized except for 20th Century avant-garde piano compositions. Memorization of music for brass, classical guitar, organ, percussion, strings and woodwinds is optional. All ensembles may use music.

Time Limits

Class	Performance Time	Audition Time
Pre-school thru Elementary 3	5 min.	7 min.
Elementary 4-6	7 min.	9 min.
Junior High 7-9	8 min.	10 min.
Senior High Voice Collegiate Voice (Undergraduate)	10 min.	12 min.
Senior High 10-12 All Collegiate Collegiate Voice (Graduate)	12 min.	15 min.

If the program exceeds the time frame it may be interrupted. It is recommended that in choosing repertoire, competitors adhere closely to audition times so that judges can hear most, if not all, of the student's program. These time limits apply for both District and State Auditions.

The Honors Auditions Time Limits are guidelines and final discretion as to the exact amount of performance time allowed lies with the adjudicator(s) in consultation with competition officials.

OTHER INFORMATION

COPIED MUSIC IN MMTA HONORS AUDITIONS

All entrants and accompanists must abide by the federal copyright law. **Photocopies are strongly discouraged.** Photocopies may not be made in order to avoid purchasing scores needed for performers or adjudicators. A Music Release Form must be signed for any photocopies being used. The form can be found here:

http://members.mtna.org/competition_handbook/media/77709/ReleaseForm.pdf

In specific instances where a piece may be out of print or is **only** published online as a digital download, contact the specific chair of the competition or VP Auditions **in advance** in order for this to be cleared. In this instance, copies will be allowed when proof of permission is provided from the composer/publisher. **Decisions based on eligibility of pieces and/or the use of copies in an audition will be made by competition officials, rather than by adjudicators.**

ACCOMPANISTS FOR MMTA HONORS AUDITIONS

Students must provide their own accompanists at the District and State Auditions. Teachers are allowed to accompany their students in the MMTA Honors Auditions.

CLASSIFICATION OF MMTA HONORS AUDITIONS

1. Pre-Collegiate Piano: Students are grouped by grade (pre-school, kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, etc.)
2. All Other Pre-Collegiate (all media except piano solo, including piano duets): Students are grouped into these classifications:

Pre-school	Grades 1-3	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-9 (Junior High)	Grades 10-12 (Senior High)
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3. Collegiate Undergraduate: College undergraduates are grouped into lower and upper divisions. If a certain division has only one entry, competition officials may, at their discretion, choose to combine the lower and upper divisions in that category.
4. Graduate: Graduate students in a particular medium are grouped together.
5. If ensembles have students in different grade levels, place ensembles in the level where the majority of the students are. If an equal number of students are from each level, the ensemble must be placed in the highest level. Examples:

Grade Levels of Students	Ensemble Grade Level
4th, 5th, 5th, 5th	5th
5th, 8th, 8th, 9th	8th
7th, 7th, 9th, 9th	9th
9th, 11th	11th

6. Collegiate ensembles must be composed entirely of college students.
7. Any classification with 30 or more entries will be randomly divided into two groups for adjudication.

For classifications that include different instruments or mediums (ie, voice, brass, woodwinds), any classification judged sufficiently large by competition officials may be divided into smaller categories according to medium. For instance, upper collegiate voice may be divided into upper collegiate men's and upper collegiate women's voice, lower collegiate brass into upper collegiate high and upper collegiate low brass, and so on. The decision to subdivide a classification in this way shall be at the sole discretion of competition officials.

OPEN AUDITIONS

All MMTA District and State Auditions are open to anyone who wishes to attend and listen.

OUR GOAL—ON TIME AUDITIONS

Our goal for auditions is to have them run on time – neither early or late. Many times “dead time” is purposefully scheduled between performers. Performers cannot perform before the scheduled time, even if there appears to be dead time between performers. In addition, judges cannot request students to perform ahead of schedule. Many teachers, parents, friends, or relatives – some you may not even know are planning to attend auditions—have missed hearing an audition because a student or a whole room was running many minutes ahead of the published schedule.

MMTA HONORS AUDITIONS ADJUDICATION

1. **Decisions of judges are final and may not be questioned by participants, parents, or teachers.** Please explain this rule in advance to students and parents and abide by it carefully. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find adjudicators for MMTA Honors Auditions, and one reason is because of too-frequent violation of this rule.
2. Judges will write an evaluation sheet for each student.
3. Pre-collegiate students will be assigned a rating of I, II, III, IV, or V. At District Auditions no plus or minus ratings will be used. At State Auditions, plus and minus ratings may be used.
4. In all classifications at the state level, judges may select a Winner, Runner-Up, and one or more Honorable Mentions. A judge may also opt to declare no winner, runner-up, or honorable mentions within a given category.
5. Teachers and students should, insofar as reasonable, avoid meeting with adjudicators immediately prior to the auditions or making any comment or taking any action that might bias the adjudicator or have the appearance of doing so.

MMTA HONORS STATE AUDITIONS AWARDS

1. **Pre-Collegiate:** All students will receive a certificate. Medals will be awarded to students receiving Runner-Up, Honorable Mentions, or I ratings. The Winner will receive a trophy.
2. **Collegiate:** Students selected as Winner, Runner-Up or Honorable Mention will receive a certificate.

POLICY ON PICKING UP AWARDS/COMMENT SHEETS FOR STATE AUDITIONS

1. **Pre-Collegiate:** If a teacher has not made arrangements for the comment sheets/certificates/awards to be picked up (i.e. making arrangements through parents or other teachers), the teacher must email the Executive Secretary at: manzoe@missouri.edu and request them. Then, the teacher has 2 options: The teacher pays \$5 (online using Stripe at missourimta.org). Please notify Payment must be made first, and the awards will be mailed all at the same time to the teachers sometime during the week following auditions; OR you can request to have them scanned/emailed to you (for free). Trophies/medals will not be mailed; the only option is to pick them up in person--or find someone else to pick them up for you.
2. **Collegiate:** Students selected as Winner, Runner-Up or Honorable Mention will receive a certificate. Contact the Collegiate Auditions Chair for comments and certificate.

MMTA CONTACT INFORMATION

1. If you have any questions about District Auditions, please contact the **District Chair**.
2. If you have any questions about State Auditions, please reach out to the **State Audition Chair**.

Note: After the District auditions end, kindly contact the State Audition Chairs.

MMTA DISTRICT CHAIRS

District	Name of Chair	Email
I	Brenda Foster	bfooster289@gmail.com
II	Xin Gao	xingao@truman.edu
III	Eva Peng	yevapeng@yahoo.com
IV	Nancy Dreier	njdreier@gmail.com
V	Wei-Han Su	WeiHanSu@missouristate.edu
VI	Becky Lee	districtaudition6@gmail.com
VII	Emily Parker	eparker@arcadianacademyofmusic.com

MMTA STATE AUDITIONS CHAIRS

MMTA Pre-Collegiate Honors Auditions Chair (Pre-school thru Senior High)

Jennifer McAtee
jmcaatee@gulfcoast.edu

MMTA Collegiate Honors Auditions Chair

San-Sung Aum
aums@denison.edu

MMTA Executive Secretary

Erica Manzo
manzoe@missouri.edu

NOTE: Please [visit here](#) for additional board members' contact information.

MMTA DISTRICTS BY COUNTIES

District I (Northwest)	District II (Northeast)	District III (West Central)	District IV (Central)	District V (Southwest)	District VI (East)	District VII
Andrew	Adair	Bates	Audrain	Barry	Crawford	Bollinger
Atchinson	Clark	Cass	Benton	Barton	Dent	Butler
Buchanan	Knox	Carroll	Boone	Cedar	Franklin	Cape Girardeau
Caldwell	Lewis	Clay	Callaway	Christian	Jefferson	Carter
Clinton	Linn	Henry Platte	Camden	Dade	Lincoln	Dunklin
Daviess	Macon	Jackson	Chariton	Dallas	Pike	Iron
DeKalb	Marion	Johnson	Cole	Douglas	St. Charles	Madison
Gentry	Putnam	Lafayette	Cooper	Greene	St. Francois	Mississippi
Grundy	Schuyler	St. Clair	Gasconade	Hickory	Ste. Genevieve	New Madrid
Harrison	Scotland	Ray	Howard	Howell	St. Louis	Pemiscot
Holt	Shelby		Maries	Jasper	Washington	Perry
Livingston	Sullivan		Miller	Laclede	Warren	Reynolds
Mercer			Moniteau	Lawrence		Ripley
Nodaway			Montgomery	McDonald		Scott
Worth			Morgan	Newton		Stoddard
			Monroe	Oregon		Wayne
			Osage	Ozark Polk		
			Pettis	Pulaski		
			Phelps	Shannon		
			Ralls	Stone		
			Randolph	Taney		
			Saline	Texas		
				Vernon		
				Webster		
				Wright		

MTNA PERFORMANCE AND COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS

MTNA RULES, REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

All information and application forms will be found in the April-May issue of American Music Teacher or at <http://www.mtna.org/www.mtna.org> under the subheadings of Engage and Competitions. MTNA competition application forms are available online only and must be submitted electronically. The application forms will not be printed in American Music Teacher.

In addition to the information given in the rules for each specific competition, there are general rules that apply to all competitions given at the beginning of the MTNA Student Competitions insert in AMT and on the MTNA web site under the title "General Competition Guidelines". Please make your students aware of these general guidelines, as well as the specific rules for the student's division and age group.

MTNA TEACHER DUES

The teacher's MMTA/MTNA dues must be paid according to the deadlines listed on MTNA's website in order for a student to be eligible. Generally the teacher dues deadline for MTNA competitions is the second Wednesday after Labor Day and the same date as the MTNA competition application deadline. Teachers who are not MTNA members may enter students in MTNA competitions by paying a non-member teacher fee.

MTNA CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

The MTNA Chamber Music Competitions will be a two-tier competition: a Preliminary Round, by video submission only ([Click Here for Details](#)) and a Final Round, live at the National Conference. In the event that the MTNA National Conference is cancelled, the finals will be a video round. Ensembles will compete without regard to the state or division in which they live or take lessons.

The entry deadline will be Wednesday, December 6, 2023, with applications available Wednesday, November 1, 2023. For more information, please [visit here](#).

STATE WINNERS OF MTNA COMPETITIONS

1. **It is important for all students to stay until the winner is selected for their competition.** Much information is needed from each winner immediately after each competition.
2. Students who enter the MTNA competitions have assumed financial and personal responsibility to continue through each of the remaining levels.
3. **Division competitions will be an ONLINE-ONLY VIDEO round.** [Click here](#) for the details of the **Division competitions process. An additional division video submission fee of \$20 will be required for those advancing to the division level.**
4. State winners will required to submit their videos by Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern time.
5. If a winner does not submit videos by the deadline, the alternate will be contacted and given until 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on December 15 to submit videos.
6. Division Competitors will receive results of the Division Competitions no later than the week of January 15, 2024.

7. Division Winners and Representatives will be required to travel to perform at the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, March 16–20, 2024.

MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS

1. **Reminder:** All applications must be submitted to the appropriate national chairman before the student competes, by the published deadline (See April/May issue of AMT). The deadline for performance competitions is **Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Be sure to keep a copy of the application for yourself.**
2. **Teachers must verify the accuracy of all information submitted in the application before submitting to national coordinators.** Correcting mistakes in applications has been a major cause of delay in scheduling your state auditions.
3. **Tentative** audition dates for Missouri state MTNA competitions:
 - MTNA Collegiate Piano:** November 2 or 3, 2023 (Thursday or Friday)
 - MTNA Collegiate Brass and Woodwinds:** November 2 or 3, 2023 (Thursday or Friday)
 - MTNA Collegiate Voice:** November 2 or 3, 2023 (Thursday or Friday)
 - MTNA Collegiate Strings:** November 3 or 4, 2023 (Friday or Saturday)
 - MTNA Pre-Collegiate Piano, Voice, Strings:** November 4, 2023 (Saturday)
 - MTNA Pre-Collegiate brass, woodwinds:** November 2 or 3, 2023 (Thursday or Friday)
(in the late afternoon, after the corresponding Collegiate competitions end)

MTNA COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Please check with the MTNA website (www.mtna.org) for correct information. All entries are submitted online.

MTNA CONTACT INFORMATION

MTNA STATE AUDITIONS CHAIRS

MTNA Pre-Collegiate Competitions

Li-Hsin Chen

lc5q6@mail.umkc.edu

MTNA Young Artist Competitions

Daniel Ketter

dketter@missouristate.edu

MTNA Student Composition Competitions

Luke Carlson

lcarlson@cofo.edu