

Student Affiliate Piano Ensemble Teams

Piano Ensemble teams consist of two to twenty students who play a piano duet (one piano, 4 hands) with a conductor from our association in a local recital as well as performing at the state TMTA Convention. Ensembles are a great way for students to get involved in Student Affiliate activities while learning better counting skills and how to follow a director. It can be very inspiring for students to play on a big stage for teachers, parents, and other students from all over the state of Texas at the annual Convention. They also receive participation points toward a scholarship from the state.

MCMTA takes 3 teams to Convention: Elementary (grades 3-6), Jr. High (grades 6-8), and High School (grades 8-12). These are recommended divisions, but advanced younger students or older beginners may play with a different grade level based upon teacher request. In years past, the Elementary team has worn matching t-shirts or a suitable costume for the piece being played. Jr. High girls have worn formals and Jr. High guys have worn black slacks, socks, shoes, bow tie, and cummerbund and white dress shirt. High school has worn formals and tuxes.

There are several requirements for ensemble team participation:

1. Participating students must be members of Students Affiliate. (Dues to be paid by September 23, 2009 to Denise Eibel.) Non-members attempting to participate will be fined \$15.00 and their teachers fined \$50.00.
2. Participating students must pass the state theory test on grade level with the following exceptions for new students:
 - 1) Grades 2-4: Students in grades 2, 3 and 4 may test ONCE at ONE level below their current school grade. In subsequent years they must test on their school grade level. For example, a 3rd grade student could take the fall level 2 test one year and then take the 4th grade test in their 4th grade year, skipping the level 3 test.
 - 2) Grades 5-12: A student who has never before taken a Primary/Whitlock theory test may test at any level, starting at level 4 or above, declared by his/her teacher. When testing below current school grade level and achieving a score of at least 70, the student is eligible to participate in convention SA activities but not to receive a theory medal. Such students must advance at least one level higher each successive year and may skip levels until they reach their current school grade level. No student may test on 2 levels during the same grading period. For example, a student may not register for grades 4 and 5 in a fall testing period.
3. Teachers must submit an ensemble registration form (available in early February) with participating students' name, grade, number of years in Ensemble including this year, teacher, piece, student address, city and zip, primo or secondo, phone number and e-mail address. They must also turn in one check for **\$15.00 per student made payable to MCMTA to the ensemble chair by February 23, 2010.**
4. Participating students must pass an audition with Ohleen Hansen, the Student Affiliate Ensemble Chair, by submitting an audition recording. **Recording deadline is April 1, 2010.** These may be CDs, cassettes, or recordings sent over the internet. Music does not have to be memorized, but must be played in completion to an acceptable level as to be considered a contributing member of the team.

5. Local rehearsals are mandatory. Teams typically meet every Saturday 8:00-10:00 am the first 4 weekends in May. There is also a dress rehearsal and local recital the week before the convention at a time and location TBA.
6. Participating students may not miss more than one rehearsal. Make-up rehearsals may be scheduled on an individual basis in the case of sickness or death in the family.
7. All ensemble members must play from memory at the local and convention recitals.
8. All ensemble members are required to be present at the beginning of the convention recital and to remain with their director throughout. Ensembles will be subject to disqualification the following year if a student or director leaves before the end of the program. Any student who leaves before the end of the program will be disqualified from State Ensemble participation the following year.
9. Parents of participating students are responsible for getting their student to the pre-convention recital and to all convention dress rehearsal/performances, June 10-13, 2010 at the Arlington Convention Center in Arlington.

Professional group and individual photographs are taken at the convention immediately following the dress rehearsal. 2010 Ensemble repertoire will be announced as soon as the ensemble chair receives word from the state as to song approval.

Contacts:

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