

TTU  TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts
School of Music™

PIANOFEST

RULES

Eligibility & Repertoire

Middle and High School Piano Competitions

For advanced Junior High (Grades 6–8) and Senior High (Grades 9–12) students from Texas and neighboring states

Repertoire

Two solo classical works by composers from different periods, in contrasting styles, must be performed from memory. Concertos and arrangements of pop songs, film music, or other non-classical works are not allowed.

* Performance length: A minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 12 minutes without repeats

Fee

\$25 for Registration

On-site payment is available. We accept cash, check and debit/credit card. Checks should be made payable to "Texas Tech University MTNA". Sent to: TTU School of Music. Attn. Dr. Carla Cash. PO Box 42033. Lubbock, TX 79409.

Teachers: If sending a group payment, or several payments in one envelope, please list the FULL NAME of each student on the check along with the payment.

Awards/Prizes

1st-3rd place winners (and honorable mentions, if any) will be selected and invited to perform in the Winners Concert at Hemmle Recital Hall (February 7th, 2pm)

* Cash prizes available for Middle and High School Piano Competition winners

Winning students who are high school seniors will be recommended for piano major scholarships at TTU.

Registration for Middle and High School Competitions via
[Registration Webpage \(Click here\)](#)

Audition for TTU School of Music Undergraduate Admissions

High school seniors participating in the High School Piano Competition may elect to have their competition performance serve as part of their undergraduate audition. An audition for additional piece and an interview will be scheduled after the competition on the day of PianoFest.

FAQs

Registration/Preparation for Performance

Q: Can a homeschooled student participate in the PK-12 Piano Festival and Middle and High School Competitions?

A: Absolutely! Any student in grades PK–12 is welcome to join us.

Q: Do I need to check in before my performance? Where can I pay the Middle and High School registration fee?

A: Yes, please check in at the registration table near the main entrance of the School of Music. TTU piano students will be there to help with check-in and payment.

Q: Are the PK-12 Piano Festival and Middle and High School Competitions open to the public?

A: Yes, everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the performances!

For Performance

Q: Do I need to bring sheet music?

A: Yes, please bring your sheet music to the festival or competition. If you perform a piece from memory, please provide a score with numbered measures for the judges. You can bring the original score in a book, the sheet music you legally purchased online or public-domain music from IMSLP (make sure it's the correct version).

Q: Is memorization of the music required?

A: Only for Middle and High School Competition participants. PK-12 Festival participants are encouraged to play from memory, but it's not required.

Q: Is there any space available for warm-up? Can participants try the piano at Allen Theatre before their performance?

A: Yes! You can warm up in a practice room on the second floor of the TTU School of Music for 10-15 minutes. TTU piano students at the registration table will show you where to go. You can also briefly try the piano in the hall for about 10 seconds before your performance - scales, chord progressions, or a short warm-up piece are perfect.

Q: Can I choose which piece to start with in the Middle and High School Competitions?

A: Yes, you can play your pieces in whatever order feels best for you.

After Performance

Q: I will participate in the PK-12 Piano Festival. When will I know if I've been selected for the Winners Concert?

A: If you are chosen, you'll get a text message by 12:30pm on the day of the festival. If you don't get a message, it means you weren't selected this time.

Q: When will I get feedback/critiques from the adjudicators?

A: Comments will be emailed to you a few days after your performance.

Q: Where and when will the Winners Concert take place?

A: The Winners Concert will be held at the Hemmle Recital Hall on February 7th, the day of performance, at 2pm.

Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to seeing you all at the 2026 TTU PianoFest!

Contact

If you have any further questions, please email us (music.pianofest@ttu.edu).