

NFMTA Fall Festival

Guidelines 2010

Date: Saturday, October 30, 2010, at Johns Creek United Methodist Church.

Application Deadline: September 14, 2010 (date of September NFMTA meeting). You must attach a typed page of your students' names (to insure correct spelling on certificates). **Teachers may make a time request, either am or pm. If a teacher lists a time request for more than 20% of their students, none of their requests will be honored.**

Eligibility: Only students of NFMTA teachers whose membership is confirmed by September 14, 2010 are eligible. Teachers must also have returned all overdue library materials. Students entered may be of any age. On the application please identify any students with special needs. Teachers must enter only their own students, and must have personally prepared their students for Festival. ***Violation of this rule will disqualify the teacher from participating in Fall Festival for the next year.***

Teacher Responsibilities: Teachers of participating students **must** work on Festival day. No substitutes are permitted. Teachers entering fewer than 10 students must work ½ day; teachers entering 10 or more students must work the full day. Every assigned job is important to the smooth running of the Festival. Therefore, it is required that teachers be on time for their work assignment, stay at their assigned work post and do their jobs, and not engage in extensive conversations with students, parents, judges or other teachers or otherwise let themselves be distracted from their jobs. ***Violation of any of these rules will disqualify the teacher from participating in Fall Festival for the next year.***

Categories: Piano Solo, Piano Duet/Ensemble, Vocal Solo, Vocal Duet/Ensemble, Vocal Solo/Musical Theater, Instrumental Solo, Instrumental Duet/Ensemble.

Payment: Teacher must make one check payable to NFMTA for the total amount of student fees (at \$16 per event). The check must be included with the Festival Application and be received by Jenny Sutton by **September 14, 2010** (date of September NFMTA meeting). There will be no refunds. Fees are not transferable to non-registered students.

Music: The judge must be furnished with **ORIGINAL** music only. All musicians must use original music, including accompanists. **NO PHOTOCOPIED MUSIC** is allowed in the building. One original copy must be provided to the judge in addition to the original copies used by the performers. Measures must be numbered. If the student does not have music, the student may play for comments only. Teachers are not to be involved with providing music or adjudication forms to their students on Festival day.

Students must have their books at the registration table. If teachers are going to bring books for students, they must be left at the registration table with the student's name on them. If different students are going to use the same book, students must arrange to return the book to the registration table with the next student's name on it.

Ratings: Each participant will receive written comments from an adjudicator and a Certificate of Participation indicating the student's rating. Students may enter for "comments only". Comment sheets and certificates will be given to the teachers.

Rating Criteria:

SUPERIOR: the performance demonstrates very careful preparation, with accurate notes and rhythm, attention given to dynamics, phrasing, and musical expression. Secure memorization with rapid recovery from memory slips.

VERY GOOD: the performance shows accomplishment and very good potential, but there are discrepancies in rhythm, tempo, dynamics, phrasing or interpretation. Hesitation at memory slips.

GOOD: musical weaknesses and numerous errors occur, but the performance shows possibilities if more practice were involved. Several memory slips, having to start over.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT: the performance shows severe deficiencies in fundamentals (rhythm, notes, memory, and preparation).

Selection of Repertoire:

Piano Solo

1. Two memorized pieces are required. (If solo music is not memorized, the student/teacher may choose either to receive one rating lower, or to receive comments only with no rating. The student is responsible for specifying which choice is made at registration on Festival day.) Each piano student will be allowed 10 minutes.
2. Each piece must be in original form. No arrangements or transcriptions are allowed. Popular music and folk songs are inappropriate.
3. Pieces must be contrasting in style (for beginners this can mean contrasting tempo, meter, mood, composer, etc.)
4. *To encourage performance of standard repertoire, each judge will award a special Prize for best performance of an Impressionist Style piece. The judge may select a solo or a duet performance to win this prize. Please see guidelines at the end of this document for selecting repertoire in the Impressionist style.*

Sightreading and Technique: Required for all Piano Solo Entrants only. Teachers choose level 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 (for sightreading/technique only, not for repertoire). Students receive a separate rating on a separate rating sheet for this category.

1. A short sight-reading example is required. Please see attached examples.
2. Students must play the scale of each performed composition. Same level as sightreading.
Level 1: One octave in quarter notes at mm = 72, (minimum) H.S. or H.T., or in tetrachords, or five finger pattern.
Level 2: Two octaves in eighth notes at mm = 80, (minimum) H.S.
Level 3: Two octaves in eighth notes at mm = 96, (minimum) H.T. parallel or contrary motion.
Level 4: Four octaves in sixteenth notes at mm = 72, (minimum) H.T. par. motion.
Level 5: Four octaves in sixteenth notes at mm = 96, (minimum) H.T. par. motion.
3. Students must play the cadence of each performed composition. Same level as scales.
Level 1: I-V7-I or I-V-I (H.S. or H.T.)
Level 2: I-IV-I-V7-I or I-IV-I-V-I (H.T.)
Level 3: I-V7-I or I-V-I with inversions (H.S. or H.T.)
Level 4: I-IV-I-V7-I or I-IV-I-V-I with inversions (H.S.)
Level 5: I-IV-I-V7-I or I-IV-I-V-I with inversions (H. T.)

If a piece is based on the whole-tone scale, student may play a one-octave whole-tone scale H.S. or H.T., and no cadence is required.

Piano Duet

1. One piece is required. Two pieces are allowed within 10 minute time limit.
2. The piece must be in original form.
3. No arrangements or transcriptions are allowed.
4. Piano duets need not be memorized.
5. All parts of duets must be played by students.
6. *To encourage performance of standard repertoire, each judge will award a special Prize for best performance of an Impressionist Style piece. The judge may select a solo or a duet performance to win this prize. Please see guidelines at the end of this document for selecting repertoire in the Impressionist Style.*

Vocal Solo

1. Two memorized pieces are required.
2. Pieces must be contrasting in style and taken from standard repertoire.
3. Live accompaniment is required. Teachers may accompany their own vocal students.
4. Each vocal student will be allowed 10 minutes.

Vocal Solo - Music Theatre

1. Two memorized pieces are required.
2. Pieces must be contrasting in style and taken from musical theatre. Pre-1965 pieces are encouraged. Entrants are discouraged from selecting songs from pop/rock style musicals or singing in a heavy "belting" voice.
3. Live accompaniment is required. Teachers may accompany their own students.
4. Each student will be allowed 10 minutes.

Vocal Duet/Ensemble

1. One piece is required.
2. The piece should be chosen from standard repertoire.
3. Vocal duets/ensembles need not be memorized.
4. Vocal duets/ensembles will be allowed 10 minutes.
5. Live accompaniment is required. Teachers may accompany their own students.

Instrumental Solo

1. One piece is required. Repertoire should have musical value and suitability and be chosen at the discretion of the teacher.
2. Memorization is not required.
3. Each soloist will be allowed 10 minutes.
4. All solos with published accompaniments must be performed with an accompanist. Teachers may accompany their own students. Live accompaniment is required.

Instrumental Duet/Ensemble

1. One piece is required. Repertoire should have musical value and suitability and be chosen at the discretion of the teacher.
2. Memorization is not required.
3. All parts must be performed by students.
4. All duet/ensemble instrumentalists will be allowed 10 minutes.

IMPRESSIONIST – STYLE PERFORMANCE AWARD –

***GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING REPERTOIRE
FALL FESTIVAL 2010***

(PIANO SOLO / PIANO DUET ONLY)

This year, in addition to performance awards, each judge for Piano Solos and Piano Duets/Ensembles will be giving a special award for best performance of an Impressionist Style piece. It is the first time we have chosen this historical period for Fall Festival. Because there are not many elementary or intermediate pieces from the Impressionist period, we are also allowing Impressionist-style pieces by modern composers and method book composers.

Impressionist music intentionally portrays objective sound effects to evoke the images of scenery, a painting, a mood or literature works. It explores new sonority in harmony, texture and piano pedalling, and sometimes results in non-traditional musical form. Often the music is based on 4ths or 5ths, whole tone or pentatonic scales; or uses parallel streams of triads, 7th or 9th chords. It frequently “paints a picture” through the use of descriptive titles, dynamics, articulation marks and suggestive instructions, and a flowing use of pedal in piano music.

Teachers are free to choose pieces by any composer as long as it falls within the general Impressionist guidelines above. There is no required composer list or repertoire list.

Debussy and Ravel were the composers who pioneered impressionistic music but many composers have written in that style including the piano composers William Gillock, Martha Mier, Nancy Faber, Dennis Alexander, Lynn Freeman Olson, Kevin Olson, Jeanine Yeager, Eugenie Rocherolle, Melody Bober, Timothy Brown and many others.