

LMTA CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

This LMTA Chamber Music Competition (CMC) is a statewide competition that aims to encourage pre-college musicians of all instrumentations to participate in small ensembles. The competition will be an annual event, held in the fall of each year, beginning in 2011. The CMC Chair, a new member of the LMTA board, will publicize and encourage Louisiana pre-college teachers to participate. This could be through workshops, demonstrations and/or recitals.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. There are two categories for the CMC.
 - a. Piano duo/Two-piano, piano four-hand, piano six-hand, and piano eight-hand.
 - b. Duo and mixed chamber groups (classical). For example: Piano trio, and string quartet.
2. Each category encompasses two age divisions. Ensembles will choose the division based on the average grade of the ensemble. However, if the average age falls between these divisions, select the lower division. For example, if there is a 6th grader and an 11th grader in an ensemble, the average is 8.5, which is interpreted as 8th grade, second semester, and the ensemble must enter in the Lower Division.
 - a. Lower division: Grades 6-8
 - b. Upper division: Grades 9-12

***All participants must be in grades 6-12 to be eligible for competition.**
3. Music ensembles shall be no less than two performers, and no more than eight, with one person per part. No conductors will be allowed.
4. No changes to ensemble personnel may be made after the application deadline.
5. Music ensembles shall be submitted directly from the teacher to the state competition. The performances should exhibit the highest standards of presentation.
6. Two side-by-side pianos (acoustic) will be provided.
7. The competition will be open to the public.

ELIGIBILITY

1. This is an event open to both LMTA members and non-members and their students. LMTA members must have paid dues by January 1 of the competition year to be considered active members. All coaches and teachers must be residents of Louisiana.
2. An ensemble member may not enter in more than one ensemble per category.
3. An ensemble member may not enter in both age divisions.
4. Winners of a first place ensemble may not re-enter the same competition with identical participants in the following year; however, in ensembles of four or more, two students may be returning participants.
5. All entrants must have studied with their present teacher at least six months preceding the date of the competition.
6. Individual ensemble members may study with different teachers. However, only one form should be submitted per ensemble. The application must be signed by a designated ensemble coach/teacher.

REPERTOIRE

1. Suggested repertoire: Major works by well-known classical composers or comparable compositions. More than one movement of a multi-movement work (non-Sonata type) by a composer could be presented and counted as one selection. The following is encouraged:
 - a. Grades 6-8: Each ensemble must perform selections by two (2) to four (4) composers with differing styles.
 - b. Grades 9-12: Each ensemble must perform selections by two (2) composers with differing styles.
2. Repertoire is left to the discretion of the teacher/coach, but selections must be true chamber works, not concerti or other works employing orchestral reduction. All selections must be approved by the CMC Chair. In questions regarding appropriate repertoire, the decision of the state chair is final.
3. Eligible repertoire includes music originally written for the chosen ensemble and published transcriptions. Unpublished transcriptions accompanied by written permission of the publisher of the original work are acceptable.

4. Each performer must have the appropriate printed score. An additional score must be provided for the evaluator. No reproductions of printed music, either by hand or photocopying, may be used by the performers except to facilitate page turns. If photocopied material is used in any other capacity, the evaluator has the option of listening to the performance, but the ensemble will not be eligible to place.
5. Repeats are left to the discretion of the ensemble, but no repeats over 16 measures should be played, unless to demonstrate additional Baroque ornamentation. Cuts in the music are not permitted.
6. Selections may be combinations of music for brass, piano, guitar, strings, wind instruments, voices, or percussion instruments and may include any number of pieces or movements. Each ensemble must showcase all performers equally. Vocal Ensembles must include at least two instrumentalists.
7. Memorization is NOT required.
8. The repertoire submitted on the registration form must be performed.
9. The time limit:
 - a. Lower Division: 6-12 minutes
 - b. Upper Division: 8-15 minutes
 Entrants are asked to fulfill the minimum time requirement. Entrants who exceed this limit may be stopped but not disqualified. Timing includes total time from first note to last note, not entrance to exit.
10. All instruments (except pianos) and associated equipment (except music stands) must be provided by the ensemble.
11. Source for Chamber Music scores: www.mtna.org, click on Resources and then Intermediate Chamber Music Repertoire Database.

PLAYING TIPS/GUIDELINES FOR COACHES AND TEACHERS

1. Continuity and tempo
2. Musical and stylistic expression
3. Proper articulations
4. Balance of sound and texture
5. Accuracy in notes and rhythms
6. Good communication for starting, stopping, and entrances

AWARDS

1. CMC awards will be given for each category (for the ensemble, not individuals):
 - a. First Place winning ensemble \$200
 - b. Second Place winning ensemble \$150
 - c. Third Place winning ensemble \$100
2. If there is only one entrant in a category, the judges have the option of not awarding a first place winner. If there are only two (2) or three (3) entrants, the judges will only award the first place winner.
3. There will be no ties in any category.
4. All participants will receive a certificate.
5. The winning ensembles will present an Honors Recital on the competition day and will be encouraged to perform at LMTA venues across the state.

FEES

1. \$20 per student
2. Additional \$40 (per ensemble) fee for any group not coached by an LMTA member
3. Fees are non-refundable!

REGISTRATION

Follow instructions on the registration form available on the LMTA website: www.lmta.org. Questions should be directed to the CMC chairman or your local association president. Deadline: Refer to LMTA website.