

Dear Student,

Are you interested in gaining ensemble experience?

The LMTA Piano Ensemble festival is an event that allows elementary through advanced students to perform duets in large, multi-piano ensembles. A conductor leads each ensemble, so you will learn how to follow a conductor's cues. Our festival is held in conjunction with the LMTA State Conference this year! This year's conference is held at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. The entire weekend is filled with concerts and workshops that your teacher will attend, the state piano competition, and finally, we end the week with a bang, the LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival.

How does it work??? Great Question!

You and I will look at the repertoire list on our website and determine which level is right for you. You and a partner will then learn all 4 duets in your level. You will submit an audition video in August/September and then head to Natchitoches for this fun, two-day event!

When you arrive at Northwestern on October 10th, you will participate in a small assembly, then embark on a rotating schedule that includes large ensemble rehearsals, private coaching's and practice, and large group activities. At the end of the day we will have pizza and then attend an ensemble concert hosted by one of the Festival's chairmen, Chialing Hsien, also a faculty member of Northwestern. Each group will be led to and from their activities by teacher/parent volunteers, keeping everyone safe and where they need to be.

The LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival does have a strict audition and rehearsal schedule, so please check your calendars, and we can discuss whether or not this event would be a good fit for you.

Important Dates:

Auditions – September 19th, 2026 – Video Auditions due by 5pm

Piano Ensemble Festival Weekend: October 10-11, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA

Attendance throughout the weekend is mandatory - students should not plan to audition if they can't be there both Saturday and Sunday. Although auditions are not until May, we will begin working on the duet music as soon as possible. Registration fees are \$70 per student and will be due at the time of registration in August. Additional information can be found online at <https://lmta.org/piano-ensemble-festival/>.

Let's plan to talk more about the LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival 2026!

Sincerely,