

2026

LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival

General Rules and Procedures

This year, the Piano Ensemble Festival is open to students ages 7 and up. Teachers should choose the student's appropriate level based on their current piano studies. Students must play all pieces in the level chosen. Levels are early elementary to late intermediate and can be found in the repertoire list [HERE](#).

Important Dates:

Registration- August 15, 2026 to September 19, 2026: All **Audition Videos** are due by Saturday September 19, 2026 5:00pm, No late entries will be accepted.

Festival Weekend: October 10-11, 2026*

*This year's festival is held in conjunction with the LMTA State Conference. Conference attendees are encouraged to stay in Natchitoches through Sunday to participate in the Festival.

Festival Schedule:

Saturday, October 10: Registration, rehearsals and activities are held beginning at 1:30pm..

Saturday, October 10: Northwestern State Faculty Ensemble Concert presented by Chialing Hsieh and friends, time TBA

Sunday, October 11: Final dress rehearsals from 9-10am (approx.) and closing concert at 11am.

Location: School of Creative and Performing Arts, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA

Information: www.lmta.org/piano-ensemble-festival

Music:

- The 2026 LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival repertoire list is available on the LMTA website.
- To comply with copyright laws, students must have legal, published copies of all music. If copies are made to facilitate page turns, the students must also have the original music with them at all times.
- Conductor Notes for each level will be posted on the website by August 15, 2026. Students should incorporate the Conductor's Notes into their music and number all measures.

Registration:

- Registration is completed online using the official form posted on the LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival page on the LMTA website.
- All communication will be handled via email. Participating teachers must have a valid email address.
- Registration fees are \$70 per student of LMTA members and \$80 for non-members.

*****Parent partners are half price and teacher partners are free. *****

- Each duet team will be asked to provide a video audition.
 1. The duet team must play together in the audition video
 2. Each duet team should either be conducted by their teacher or use an audible metronome at the beginning of each piece set at the suggested tempo. The metronome need not run throughout the entire performance.
 3. Videos will be uploaded as unlisted on YouTube.
 4. **All audition videos will be due by 5:00pm Saturday, September 19th – no late audition videos will be considered.**
- The Piano Ensemble Festival committee will evaluate the audition videos. Should a video not be at the desired level, the chairman will return the video to the submitters with suggestions for improvement. Students should work diligently to correct the suggestions.

Refunds:

- The Registration Fee is non-refundable.
- Should a member of a team withdraw before September 19th, the teacher may assign a substitute or take the place of the withdrawing student. No accommodations will be made after September 19th.

Attendance:

- Attendance for the entire weekend is mandatory. Students must participate in all Saturday rehearsals, coachings, and activities and Sunday morning dress rehearsals to participate in the concert Sunday.
- In the case of a last-minute emergency, the student's teacher must contact the chairman as soon as possible. The teacher may be asked to substitute for the absent student.

Teacher Participation:

- Teachers sending students to this event are obligated to help with the event. Should a teacher be unable to attend, they **MUST** send a substitute or pay a \$75 substitute fee.
- Teacher work forms are included with the registration form and should be completed and returned with the registration form.

