

NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION PIANO PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL (Piano Duet) DISTRICT

DATE: Saturday, 2025 (TBA – Early Spring)

TIME: To be announced one week before the contest.

LOCATION: (TBA)

PROCEDURE:

* **District:** Students first enter the District Level.

* **State:** Students receiving “Highest Honors” at the District Level, may compete at the State Level.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS: Repertoire selections are open. Students may perform with music or from memory two or more contrasting Duets. Memorization is not required. Duet partners are encouraged to switch parts for at least one selection.

CATEGORIES: (Determined by the Age of the Older Student in the Duet Team)

* **ELEMENTARY Piano Duet** (Performance Time: maximum of 8 minutes)

Ages 6 through 10 as of January 1 of the competition year.

The older student in the Elementary Category must be between ages 6 and 10.

* **JUNIOR Piano Duet** (Performance Time: maximum of 10 minutes)

Ages 11 through 14 as of January 1 of the competition year.

The older student in the Junior Category must be between ages 11 and 14.

* **SENIOR Piano Duet** (Performance Time: maximum of 15 minutes)

Ages 15 through 18 as of January 1 of the competition year.

The older student in the Senior Category must be between ages 15 and 18.

RATINGS for Duet Teams:

* ***Highest Honors*** Awarded to those students who play with meticulous accuracy, in the correct style for the composer, and with imagination. Students earning a “Highest Honors” rating will receive a gold seal on their certificates. These Duet Teams may compete at the State Level.

* ***Merit*** Awarded for accuracy and observation of details of the score. This is definitely a meritorious rating. Students earning a “Merit” rating will receive a silver seal on their certificates.

* ***Participant*** Lacking in some way.

State Conference Honors Recital: A limited number of the Piano Duet State “Highest Honors” winners will be selected by the judges to perform at the State Conference Piano Duet Festival Honors Recital. The Contest Director on a percentage basis at the two State contest sites, will determine the specific number of selected Superiors.

The NCMTA Piano Performance Festival is definitely a prestigious contest. The judges are always cordial and pleasant, but they are strict, and superior ratings are hard to come by. In the Charlotte District, we average about five superiors per fifty junior entrants. The percentage is a little higher in the senior division, but there are fewer contestants. The student who receives “Highest Honors” is indeed talented. Since top honors go only to the gifted, this rating has become an important credential for the serious piano student. It is indeed a privilege to be asked to participate in this event. The comments from the judge should be valued as the student matures musically.