

# EVMTA Piano Competition 2026

## Solo and Duet

### Competition Guidelines

#### ■ Dates & Location

- Competition Date: **Saturday, February 28, 2026**
  - Individual times will be announced after registration closes
- Winners' Recital & Awards Ceremony: **Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 2:00 PM**
- Location: **Mesa Community College Performing Arts Center**
- Registration Opens: **Sunday, January 18, 2026**
- Application Deadline: **Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 11:59 PM**

#### ■ Teacher Requirements

- Each teacher entering students\* must participate in at least one of the following EVMTA Events\*\*:  
Music Showcase, Fall Recital, Composers Celebration Concert, or Piano Ensemble.  
\*Participating students do not need to be the same students who will be entered in the competition.  
\*\*Please refer to the EVMTA Yearbook for information and application deadlines for these events.
- Teachers must be current **EVMTA members** before registration.
- Non-EVMTA teachers, who are not members of MTNA/ASMTA, are welcome to participate in the competition by paying a teacher's fee of \$150. Students registered under a non-member teacher will pay a student competition fee for their respective category, increased by an additional \$5.00. For non-EVMTA teachers who are active members of ASMTA, we encourage the payment of current active membership dues for EVMTA to ensure eligibility for participation with their students. In this case, the registration fees for students remain as stated in the guidelines. Please contact the chairperson before registration.
- Participating teachers are required to volunteer for this event.
  - If entering 1–5 students: Please volunteer for 2 hours
  - If entering 6 or more students: Please volunteer for 4 hours
  - Teachers may send a substitute adult volunteer.
  - Teachers who fail to meet the volunteer requirement may be disqualified from future EVMTA *Piano competitions*.

**Note:** Teachers **must not reveal their identity or their students' identity** to the judges at any time. *Violation of this rule will result in the disqualification of the student.*

#### ■ Categories & Time Limits (Age as of Feb 28, 2026)

Category A:	Age 7 & under	6 minutes
Category B:	Age 8–9	8 minutes
Category C:	Age 10–11	10 minutes
Category D:	Age 12–13	12 minutes
Category E:	Age 14–15	15 minutes
Category F:	Age 16–18	20 minutes
Duet:	Ages 12–18	8 minutes

- Students may choose to compete in a higher age category.
- Performance may not exceed the prescribed time limit. Performances exceeding the specified time limits may be stopped at the judges' discretion, and exceeding the time limit may result in disqualification.

- First-place winners (Gold Medalists) from the previous competition are ineligible to compete in the same age category again, but they may compete in higher age categories.

#### ■Application Fees

Category A & B:	\$35
Category C & D:	\$40
Category E & F:	\$45
Duet:	\$50 per duo

- Add \$5 for each student entered by a non-member teacher
- All fees are non-refundable

#### ■Awards

Gold Medal:	one winner
Silver Medal:	up to two winners
Bronze Medal:	up to three winners
Honorable Mentions:	at judges' discretion
Special Awards (solo division only):	one Jury Award one Best Performance of a Work by an Underrepresented Composer

**Note:** Winners in each category will receive a medal and a cash award. Honorable mentions and special awards recipients will not receive cash awards.

#### ■Repertoire Requirements

- Solo Division Requirements
  - Two memorized pieces are to be presented. One work must be from the Baroque or Classical period, and the other from the Romantic through the Contemporary periods.

**Note:** *Keyboard music from the Renaissance period is not accepted.*
- Duet Division Requirements
  - One piano, two performers (ages 12–18 only)
  - **One** composition from a standard music period (Baroque to Contemporary)
  - Memorization is optional
- For both Solo and Duet divisions, multi-movement works may be entered as one piece.
- No cuts are allowed in longer works, such as variations, at the performer's discretion.
- Compositions by underrepresented composers are welcome. This includes women, composers of color (BIPOC), non-Western composers, and any emerging or contemporary composers who have not yet gained widespread recognition. Prior approval from the competition committee is required to ensure the artistic quality of the program, educational value, integrity, and fairness; all repertoire must be musically and pedagogically appropriate. (Unusual or unsuitable selections may affect the judges' ability to provide consistent and fair evaluations.)
- Transcriptions by acclaimed composers (such as Liszt or Rachmaninoff) may be permitted with prior approval from the chair. Original compositions by well-known composers are preferred. Pieces from method books are not allowed, unless they were written by a renowned composer.
- All music must be performed from legally obtained, published editions to ensure accuracy and compliance with copyright regulations.

- Students using \*PDF scores downloaded from the internet must have permission to use the music (please contact the chairperson). They must complete and submit the [MTNA Music Release Form](#).  
\*Printed PDF scores must be in a binder for easy reading by the judges.
- Photocopies from published books are not allowed.
- All scores must be checked by the competition monitor (check-in desk) prior to the entrant's performance on the competition day. Measures must be numbered at the beginning of each line. **No names** (teacher, student, or parent) may appear on submitted music.
- No changes to the repertoire are allowed after the application deadline.
- Any questions regarding the appropriateness of the selected repertoire may be directed to the chairperson at yumikocantabilepianostudio@gmail.com.

#### ■Registration Instructions

- Teachers must complete all registration through EVMTA.org. Students/parents cannot register themselves.
- Teachers should collect registration fees from parents before registration.
- All music titles must be listed with full titles and composer names. (This is very important!!)

For example:

Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, III. Presto agitato by L.V. Beethoven

#### ■Additional Rules & Reminders

- Each teacher must comply with all requirements and meet all deadlines. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- Students must have studied with their current teacher for **at least 6 months**.
- Any identifying information (such as the teacher's or student's name) must not appear on the music.
- All such markings must be **completely covered**.
- Entrants accepted into the competition will perform for a panel of at least two judges. The judges have full discretion over all award decisions. Their decisions are final and may not be challenged.
- While the chairperson(s) may enter students in the competition, judges are strictly prohibited from entering their own students.
- All questions or inquiries must come **from teachers only**, not from students or parents.
- Teachers, students, and parents are expected to show respect to the judges and competition organizers and to help ensure the event runs smoothly.
- Any complaints must be submitted in writing.
- Gold Medal winners will perform one piece, as selected by the judges, at the Winners' Recital.
- No substitutions are allowed.
- Students who compete in the Solo Division, or in both the Solo and Duet Divisions, are not eligible to participate in the Jason Sipe Prize Performance Competition. However, students who are competing **only** in the Duet Division may participate in a Solo category in the Jason Sipe Prize Performance Competition.
- No video/audio recording is allowed during the competition. (The Winner's recital may be recorded.)

#### ■Preliminary Round

- If the number of applicants is high, a preliminary round will be held via video.
- Teachers will be notified by Wednesday, February 4, 2026.
- Video and score submissions are due by Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 11:59 PM.
- Results will be announced one week before the competition.

#### ■ Video Submission Guidelines (Preliminary Round)

- Videos must be recorded in one take. No editing is allowed.
- Both pieces must be played back-to-back in the same video.
- Use an acoustic piano (upright or grand).
- Recordings made with a professional camcorder and microphones are highly recommended. (iPhone or similar devices are also acceptable.)
- The performer's face, hands, and feet must be clearly visible. No speaking and warmup are allowed in the video.
- To ensure the quality and consistency of the videos among entrants, set up the camera from the audience's perspective, limit background noise, and make sure the performance space is well lit.
- Record the video first, then upload it to YouTube under the "unlisted" option. Recording within the YouTube app may cause compression of the file and reduce sound quality.
- Including composers and full titles of the pieces (opus, catalog number, etc.) in the description of the video on YouTube. Do not include names of students or teachers.
- The YouTube channel must NOT reveal the applicant's identity and/or their teacher's name.
- The score for pieces must be compiled in one PDF file, and in the same order of performance.
- Submit a YouTube link and a single PDF of the scores to [yumikocantabilepianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:yumikocantabilepianostudio@gmail.com).
- Submitted performances must NOT be shared publicly until the competition results have been announced.
- Further information about updating video titles and preparing them for preliminary adjudication will be emailed to teachers after the submission deadline.

For any questions or more information, please email [yumikocantabilepianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:yumikocantabilepianostudio@gmail.com).

Competition Chair: Yumiko Ueda

Competition Co-Chair: Sonoko Barnett