

Charles F. T. Nakarai/Loren Withers Piano Competition

Eligibility

Participating student pianists must be between twelve and fourteen years of age in the year of the contest. No student may win first place more than once. Previous first place winners may enter the contest for comments only and are encouraged to enter other contests as they continue their pursuit of musical excellence.

Repertoire requirements

Each contestant must play one piece by J.S. Bach, at least the level of the Two-Part Inventions or more advanced. Each contestant must play two additional pieces chosen from two or more of the following stylistic periods: Classical (through Beethoven), Romantic, Impressionistic, or Twentieth Century. A student may not play more than three unrelated pieces. All pieces must be played from memory. "Popular" music, gospel songs, hymns, jazz, and movie themes are not permitted. Participants are strongly encouraged to perform pieces that are of contrasting style and mood. If you have questions about repertoire requirements, please contact the Nakarai/Withers Chairs, Meg O'Brien at mobrienpiano@gmail.com and Tanya Smirnov at smirpiano@gmail.com.

Time Requirements

The minimum time limit is six minutes. A student who plays less than six minutes will be disqualified. The maximum time limit is fifteen minutes. Students who exceed the time limit will be asked to stop playing (but not disqualified) by the Room Monitor. Short repeats indicated by the composer may or may not be taken. Longer repeats, such as sonatina or sonata expositions, may not be taken. Pieces may not be cut.

Judging

Judges will be engaged to select winners. The judges will base their decision on both the quality of the performances, as well as the level of difficulty of the music. The student must present the score of each piece on his/her program to the chair for use by the judges. NO PHOTOCOPIES ARE ALLOWED.

Awards

The student who wins first place receives the Charles F. T. Nakarai prize of \$200.00. The first place winner is also invited to perform at the Performance Festival Sunday Winners Recital in May. The student who wins second place receives the Loren Withers Prize of \$100.00. An award of \$100 will also be awarded for Best Performance of a Lyrical Style. All participants, including first and second place winners, are eligible for this prize. Honorable mention recipients will be awarded a ribbon.

Nakarai information continued on next page.

Nakarai Registration & Fees

Teachers must complete the online registration form available here: [NAKARAI REGISTRATION FORM](#)
[A printable paper form is available here.](#)

Please mail your check, made payable to DMTA, to: Meg O'Brien, 109 Lonebrook Dr, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

Please write student's name on the memo line of the check. The non-refundable entrance fee is \$25 per student. An additional fee of \$30 will be charged for non-member teachers to enter one or more students. Please be sure the registration form is mailed by the postmark date. Be sure to give detailed information about each piece (exact title, movement, opus number, etc.). **Time requests will not be honored.** Registration forms with incomplete information will not be processed. **Form must be signed by both parents and teachers.**

Student Recitals

Student recitals are performance opportunities for any age and level student who has a piece ready for public performance. We welcome students of any instrument or voice performing solos, duets, and small ensembles. Pieces of any style or genre are welcome, including pieces from method books. If you are uncertain about a piece, please consult the recital chairperson. Memory for solo repertoire is encouraged but not required. Memorization is not required for duets and ensembles. For information regarding the location, dates and times of the recitals, please see the DMTA Events Calendar.

Recitals will be a maximum of 75 minutes. The length of an individual performance is limited to 5 minutes. Students wishing to perform one piece that is longer than 5 minutes may be approved at the discretion of the recital chair. Final programming decisions will be made by the recital chair. A \$30 fee for non-member teachers is applicable to enter one or more students. Make checks payable to DMTA and mail to organizer. Limits may be placed on the number of students per teacher at the discretion of the recital chair. Programming and on-site decisions are the prerogative of the recital chair and are final.

Registration is open one month prior to recital and closes 7 days prior to recital. To sign up your student(s), please email the recital organizer at recitals@durhammusicteachers.org the following information:

- student's name, age, instrument
- level
- composer's full name and dates
- complete composition title, including any opus number or other catalog number, and the movement, if part of a larger composition
- duration of the student's performance of the piece
- teacher's name, phone number, and hours to call

- If you have listed more than one piece, please indicate a preference if only one will be included in the program due to the time constraints.

Please plan to attend your student's performances! If recital is canceled, teachers will be notified seven days prior to scheduled date.

Submissions are also accepted by US Mail and should be received at least 7 days prior to recital.

Performance Etiquette - Teachers, please copy and go over this with your students and their families.

1. Please arrive a few minutes early in order to get settled. String students arrive 15 minutes early for tuning.
2. Please dress nicely. Sneakers, jeans, shorts, and T-shirts are not appropriate.
3. Practice stage presence and bows at home. This adds polish to your performance!
4. Students should not make any comments during their performance.
5. Please remain seated and plan to stay for the entire recital. It is impolite to leave early.
6. Talking and moving about are distracting to the performer and audience. Please be a polite listener.
7. If an emergency makes it impossible for you to arrive on time, please wait until an usher opens the door to seat you.
8. Applause should consist of clapping only.
9. Flash photography is PROHIBITED during a performance. If you wish to take a photograph, please wait until the student has finished the performance. Please ask the chairperson if you would like to videotape.
10. Food and beverages are not acceptable during recitals. Please deposit them in the trash before coming.
11. Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices should be turned off during the performance.

Master Classes

A master class is an opportunity for students to perform in front of an audience and to work with a clinician. The clinician discusses and addresses various aspects of performance and studying, such as musical expression, technical challenges, practice strategies, and more. The audience learns from the clinician through observation. A 30-45 minute master class for teachers may follow the student master class. Master classes are held on designated Saturday or Sunday afternoons; please consult the Calendar for locations, dates, and times. There is \$25 non-refundable entry fee for performing students who study with current DMTA members. An additional \$30 fee for non-member teachers is applicable to enter one or more students.

Students may choose to perform for a clinician a complete piece or an excerpt from a piece. Guidelines regarding acceptable piece duration or allocated playing time will be announced for individual events. Registrations should be completed by the registration deadlines announced for the individual events. The following should be sent to the event organizer by the due date:

1. **\$25 registration fee (additional \$30 for non-member teachers)** for each participating student. Make checks payable to DMTA.
2. **Student name, age, and level.**
3. Program information should include: **composer; complete composition title, including any opus number or other catalog number; and the movement, if part of a larger composition.** If there is a specific question about the piece, please submit it in writing along with the registration form.
4. **Teacher e-mail and phone number.**

Playathons

Playathons are informal performance opportunities in public places where students of any age or level, studying any instrument, and playing any musical style may enjoy sharing their skills. The goals of the Playathons are to increase awareness of our association, to give students an informal performance opportunity, and to raise funds for our scholarship program. There are no restrictions for participation in any of the Playathons. Students do not need to dress up and are welcome to use their music, but please do not bring photocopies. A piano and/or digital keyboard is made available.

If you are interested in participating, contact the coordinator for a block of time at least 14 days prior to the event. You may fill the time block in any manner you choose. It is not necessary to inform the coordinator of how you will fill your time. In the past, participating teachers have allowed students to play in the order they arrived, arranged for special duets between students, or conducted a mini-recital, complete with programs. The last time slot of each Playathon will be available for sign up times shorter than 30 minutes to accommodate teachers with a small number of participants. Students signing up for this last slot should be present for the entire time slot to provide an audience for others.

Please provide names and cell phone numbers of responsible adults for all participating students to the coordinator. If you must cancel please let the Playathon Coordinator know as early as possible so that time can be filled.

A \$5 donation to the DMTA Scholarship Fund is requested for each participating student. Each teacher should ensure that the minimum contribution is received from his or her studio. A \$30 fee for non-member teachers is applicable to enter one or more students. Make checks payable to DMTA and mail to organizer. For information regarding location, dates and times for the Playathons please see the [DMTA Events Calendar](#).

Adult Student Musical Event

The DMTA offers a unique opportunity for our post high school adult students on all instruments and voice to share what they have been learning in an informal low-key setting. All adult students at all levels are welcome to attend and may choose to play a piece (or not!). Memorization is not required.

Teachers are asked to attend and to actively encourage their adult students to share their music with one another. A reception to honor the students is provided and teachers will be asked to bring a finger food to share

A \$30 fee for non-member teachers is applicable to enter one or more students. Make checks payable to DMTA and mail to organizer.

Scholarship Program

With money raised from Playathons and recitals, DMTA can sponsor a limited number of students with full or partial scholarships for music study. Awards are based on teacher recommendation and evidence of financial need. Students with financial need who have been studying with a DMTA teacher for one year or longer are eligible to apply for a DMTA scholarship. Scholarships are limited to one per teacher. The teacher is responsible for compiling the required documents and submitting the application packet to the scholarship chair. For more information, contact Frank Pittman at pianistfrank@mac.com.

The teacher will supply a letter of recommendation and hold a slot open for the student. The application packet for fall semester must be postmarked by July 1, and application packet for spring semester must be postmarked by January 1. Scholarships will be awarded to cover the fall and spring semester. Students need not reapply for Spring Scholarship. The January 1 date is for new scholarships only.

The teacher will be informed within 30 days of these deadlines of any scholarship award to their student so they may complete plans for lesson scheduling. Checks will be sent in the fall and spring.

Scholarship Cover Page

- Completed Application
- Verification of Income
- Additional Information about Income (as needed)
- Letter of Recommendation from DMTA teacher

I have compiled the scholarship application packet and verify the above materials are included.

Signature of DMTA teacher

Date

Applications will not be submitted for review by the DMTA Board unless all the application information is included with the packet. It is the teacher's responsibility to make sure all the information is included.

Durham Music Teachers Association

Organized January 1967
DMTA Scholarship Committee

Return this form to your teacher at least one week before the deadline: July 1 for Fall/full-year scholarship or January 1 for Spring/half-year scholarship, so your teacher can submit all the application documents together before these deadlines. If you have any questions, ask your teacher or contact Frank Pittman, scholarship chair at pianistfrank@mac.com.

Scholarship Application Form

Date: _____ Student Name: _____

Age: _____ Gender: M F Grade: _____ School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian/Sponsor: _____

Address (if different from student): _____

Phone: work _____ home _____

Email: _____

Name of teacher recommending you: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

How long have you been studying with this teacher? _____

Instrument presently studied: _____

Instrument available for practice (circle) YES NO

For voice students, vocal classification (if known): _____

The teacher recommending your child will evaluate the child's potential, interest, and home support. The scholarships are intended for children who would not otherwise be able to take lessons because of financial considerations. Please describe your situation, documenting with a copy of your IRS form (the page which shows your income) where possible. If not possible, verify income with a copy of a pay stub, receipt, etc. All such information will be kept confidential.