



2025-2026 Michigan Music Teachers Association State Competition Guidelines

The Michigan Music Teachers Association State Competition is an annual event held in two rounds: District Semi-Finals and State Finals. Eligible entrants first compete in the District Semi-Finals held at locations in Eastern and Western Michigan, with the possibility of advancing to the State Finals held in Central Michigan. First-, second-, and third-place winners at the State Finals are chosen from each of the four competition divisions, and first-place winners from each division are asked to perform at that year's state conference.

Competition Rules

- The competition entrant must study with a current member of the Michigan Music Teachers Association.

- The entrant's division is determined based on their age on January 1st of the competition year:

 - Primary (ages 9 and under)

 - Elementary (ages 10-12)

 - Junior (ages 13-15)

 - Senior (ages 16-18)

- For Semi-Finals, entrants must compete in the district that corresponds to their teacher's local association:

Eastern District: Ann Arbor, Capital Area, Flint, M3TA, Macomb, Metropolitan Detroit, Livonia, Port Huron

Western District: Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Great Traverse, Holland, Kalamazoo, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior

- Finalists will be selected from each district to compete in State Finals with 50% selected from each District. A maximum of 20 entrants will advance to State Finals from each of the Primary, Elementary, and Junior Divisions; a maximum of 16 entrants will advance from the Senior Division.

- Scheduling is done by the lottery system. Neither requests for morning or afternoon, nor changes are allowed.

- Neither the identity of the entrant nor the teacher will be known to judges before or during the competition. Each contestant will receive written comments. All decisions of the judges are final.

- Recording or photographing of any entrant is strictly prohibited. Individuals who do not comply with this rule will be asked to leave the premises.
- Teachers of entrants must volunteer for 2.5 hours per event. Teachers may abstain from volunteering with a \$45 assessment fee.
- All entry fees are non-refundable.

Repertoire

- Entrants will prepare three (3) memorized works each from a different stylistic period:
 - I. Renaissance/Baroque
 - II. Classical
 - III. Romantic*
 - IV. Twentieth and Twenty-First Century*

*Impressionist repertoire may be used in either category III or IV for the year 2026.
- The maximum performance time for all three (3) works is as follows:
 - Primary (8 minutes)
 - Elementary (10 minutes)
 - Junior (12 minutes)
 - Senior (15 minutes)
- Method book compositions, arrangements, simplified transcriptions, and concerti are not permitted.
- No changes to repertoire are permitted following the entrant's registration.
- Entrants are required to perform the same repertoire at both the State Semifinals and Finals.

Competition Music

- By entering the competition, you agree to abide by all Federal Copyright Laws. Owned music (either hard copy or downloaded) and public domain music secured through IMSLP is permitted.
- A hard copy of each score must be available at the time of the event.
- Measures are to be numbered in the left margin of each score.

Trophies and Awards

- State Finalists will receive a ribbon and certificate.
- The top three (3) winners of each division at State Finals will receive an engraved plaque.