

Ensemble Festival Rules & Guidelines

Mission: To provide an opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to perform ensemble music (duets, duos, trios, quartets, quintets, etc.) in a formal recital setting and to learn from that experience through an adjudicator's remarks. Students will receive a rating, certificate, ribbon, and adjudication sheet.

DATE: Saturday, September 20, 2025

LOCATION: Clark High School Theater

REGISTRATION DATES: Saturday, Aug. 30 – Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025

RECITAL TIMES: 9:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:00PM

Note: Recital times are first-come, first-serve when registration opens.

FEES: \$20 per student, per ensemble (Showcase \$20, Duets/Duos \$40, Trios \$60, Quartets \$80, Quintets/Groups larger than a Quintet \$100)

*Note: **Non-member fees** are higher. (Showcase \$30, Duets/Duos \$50, Trios \$70, Quartets \$90, Quintets/Large Groups \$110)*

NFMC: Ensemble Festival also encompasses the NFMC Junior Festival Piano Ensemble component. Students may choose to receive optional NFMC Junior Festival credit. See more information below on how to participate.

Registration & Payment Instructions:

- ***All entries, both non-NFMC and NFMC, will register on lvmta.com.*** Payment will be made via credit or debit card at the end of the registration form.
- Entries are not valid unless paid for.
- NFMC teachers additionally need to sign-up their students on the Vivace system so that students can receive NFMC points after the event.
- NFMC teachers must remit NFMC studio dues to LVFMC before registration begins.

Categories:

- Duet: One Piano, Four Hands; or two instrumentalists/vocalists
- Duo: Two Pianos, Four Hands
- Trio: One Piano, Six Hands or Three Pianos, Six Hands; or three instrumentalists/vocalists
- Quartet: Two Pianos, Eight Hands or Four Pianos, Eight Hands; or four instrumentalists/vocalists
- Quintet: Five Pianos, Ten Hands; or five instrumentalists/vocalists
- Groups larger than a Quintet: six or more instrumentalists/vocalists
- Showcase Piece: Primo or Secondo piano part only, student will get paired with and perform in a larger ensemble at the performance. See more information below.

Time Limits:

- Ages 4 - 9: 4 minutes
- Ages 10 - 15: 7 minutes
- Ages 16 - Adult: 10 minutes

Age/Time Determination: The entry age of the ensemble will be determined by averaging the ages of all ensemble members. For example, if a 16-year-old participant is playing with a 12-year-old sibling, the average is 14 years; hence their total performance time will be 7 minutes. These are maximum time limits; filling the entire time is not required, nor is it a judging point.

Judging: This festival is not a competition. Skills evaluated are divided into: Accuracy, Technique, Interpretation and General Effect. *You can view an example adjudication sheet on lvmta.com.* All ensemble participants will receive colored ribbons with a rating, as follows:

- I+ - Superior with Honors – Purple Ribbon
- I - Superior - Blue Ribbon
- II - Excellent - Red Ribbon
- III - Satisfactory - White Ribbon

Original Music: An original score must be provided to the judge. If music is used on stage during the performance, it must also be an original score. Hard copy scores are preferred, however, digitally purchased scores will be accepted, if accompanied by a purchase receipt. Digital scores should be presented neatly in a binder/folder. IMSLP copies are not permitted. Be prepared with enough **original scores for all performers and the judge**. Photocopies of an individual page are allowed only to facilitate page turns. Memorization is encouraged but not required.

The following was enacted in 2005 by the LVMTA Board and will apply to all LVMTA events:

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THIS EVENT IF YOU, THE PARTICIPATING TEACHER, WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST *with this event in some way, either before, during or after.*

Volunteer Positions: Emcee/Backstage Monitor, Adjudicator, Judge's Helper, Award's Presenter. *You can view a description of each volunteer position on lvmta.com.* You will choose a volunteer time and role during online registration. After registration closes, Allison Olson, chairperson, will contact participating teachers to confirm volunteer assignments and times. If you are new to LVMTA, LVFMC, or the event, volunteering is a great way to become familiar with the event.

NFMC Junior Festival:

- Entrants choosing to enter ensembles under the optional NFMC Junior Festival requirements must perform two pieces. Required piece selections must be made from the NFMC Festivals Bulletin that covers 2024 - 2028.
- If you enter a student in more than one Jr. Festival entry, the student may earn points only one time per category. Please see Bulletin page XX (beginning of book), item # 4 and examples listed for further clarification.
- If a teacher is the partner for an ensemble, no NFMC points can be awarded.
- Please check the Bulletin for all current rules. To obtain a Bulletin, please contact the LVFMC President, Jee Wong.
- *Please note and follow the **Partnership rule** in the Bulletin page 71, item # 1. The solo class of ensemble entrants must be within two (2) classes of each other. The lowest permissible entry class for any ensemble is one (1) class below the lower partner's solo class.*

Showcase Piece: This option allows students who do not have a piano ensemble partner to participate. Showcase Piece selections are updated yearly and the student need only learn the Primo or Secondo part of the piece corresponding to their playing level. The student will then be paired up with a partner on the day of the performance and perform in an ensemble group with up to 10 participants playing the same piece. The Showcase Piece will be performed at only *one* of the recital times above. **Specific recital time** will be announced prior to the start of registration. Showcase Piece participants must be available for a **rehearsal 30 minutes prior** to the recital time.

- The Showcase Pieces for 2025 are:
 - *Sneaky Fox Boogie* by Emilie Lin (elementary level)
 - *Opening Night* by Kevin Costley (intermediate level)
- **More information regarding the Showcase Pieces can be found at lvmta.com** - sheet music purchase links, tempo, practice tracks, etc.

Teacher Ensemble: Teachers may perform at the Festival by forming a teachers only ensemble. There is no registration fee for this type of group, the total time limit is 7 min.

Library: We have a collection of duet, duo, and quintet books that are available for check out. These books can be used as the original music on stage during the performance or the book given to the judge. Also, if you have ensemble books that you no longer use, we are gladly accepting donations. Please contact Kathleen Waite, chairperson, to view and borrow from or donate to the library.

Chairpersons:

- Michelle Lee – michellelee1@hotmail.com
- Allison Olson – olsonfam5k@cox.net
- Kathleen Waite – kathleencwaite@gmail.com