

SILVER STATE COMPETITION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

DATE: Friday-Sunday, November 6-8, 2026

LOCATION: Clark High School, 4291 W. Pennwood Ave., 89102

REGISTRATION: Thursday, Oct. 1st 12:00AM – Thursday, Oct. 8th 11:59PM at nvmta.com

Late entries are not accepted.

FEES:

\$45 per student, per category for all Solos, Piano Concerto, and Composition (\$55 for non-members)

\$25 per student, per category for Piano Ensemble and Chamber Music (\$35 for non-members)

Fees will be collected during registration via debit/credit card. Unpaid entries are invalid.

Refunds are not permitted.

PURPOSE

To provide an entry-level state competition that is open to students of the Nevada Music Teachers Association (NMTA) members and non-members.

To fundraise for the NMTA convention, programs, and services.

To give students an avenue for demonstrating and achieving aspects of performance, such as artistic interpretation, technique, rhythm, and stage presence.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to instrumental or vocal students enrolled in school grades 1-12 who reside in Nevada or whose teacher resides in Nevada.

Students who are entered into the MTNA Solo Competition may not enter the Silver State Classical Solo Category for that same instrument with the same repertoire. The same rule applies to students who are entered in the MTNA Piano Ensemble, MTNA Chamber Music, or MTNA Composition Competitions. They may not enter the same category in the Silver State Competition with the same repertoire.

CATEGORIES

Eligible students may enter one or more of the following categories:

Piano Classical Solo	Piano Social Solo	Chamber Music
Piano Classical Ensemble	Piano Social Ensemble	Composition
Piano Concerto	String Solo	
Woodwind Solo	Voice Solo	

SCHOOL GRADE DIVISIONS

Students will compete in individual school grade divisions within the categories listed above:

1st Grade	4th Grade	7th Grade	10th Grade
2nd Grade	5th Grade	8th Grade	11th Grade
3rd Grade	6th Grade	9th Grade	12th Grade

Even when there is only one participant in the grade/category, school grade divisions will not be combined.

Piano Ensemble and Chamber Music will enter in the school grade division according to the grade of their oldest player.

PROOF OF SCHOOL GRADE

Proof of school grade must be brought to the competition and shown during check-in. The proof must show student name and current school grade for 2026-2027.

Examples of proof include a student ID, a report card, or school registration form. A clear digital picture (on a smartphone) of a student ID, report card, or school registration form is also acceptable.

If the student fails to supply appropriate proof of school grade during check-in, the student may still perform, however the student will be ineligible for awards.

Due to the complexity of verifying school grade for homeschool students and to prevent issues during check-in, teachers may be asked to submit verification *prior* to the Competition for homeschooled students.

MUSIC SCORE

The student must provide a score to the judge at the competition. Published hard copy original scores are preferred, however digitally purchased scores are acceptable. Digitally purchased scores must include a proof of purchase receipt. *IMSLP copies are not allowed.*

All student, parent, and teacher names must be removed or covered. (whiteout, black marker, tab, etc.)

If there is no score for the judge, the student may perform, however the student will be ineligible for awards.

Students that perform with music in a memory optional category (see below) are discouraged from using photocopies. A Music Release statement will be agreed to during registration.

COMPETITION TIMES

All performances will be live and in-person, except for Composition. (See below for Composition Entries.)

Each student will be given an individual performance time. Competition times will be released to the teacher 1-2 weeks prior to the competition date.

Specific schedule requests cannot be accommodated. Please have your student reserve Friday-Sunday until the official schedule is released.

Competition performances are open to the public. All students, parents, teachers and their guests are invited to watch the entire category/age group perform.

MEMORIZATION

Memorization is required for the following categories: Piano Classical Solo, Piano Concerto, Piano Social Solo, String Solo, and Voice Solo.

A student not memorized in one of these categories may perform with music but will be ineligible for awards.

Memorization is optional for the following categories: Piano Classical Ensemble, Piano Social Ensemble, Composition, Woodwind Solo, and Chamber Music.

TIME LIMITS

- The time limits for All Categories, except Piano Concerto, are as follows:

1st/2nd Grade: 4 minutes

7th/8th Grade: 7 minutes

3rd/4th Grade: 5 minutes

9th/10th Grade: 8 minutes

5th/6th Grade: 6 minutes

11th/12th Grade: 9 minutes

- The time limits for Piano Concerto only are as follows:

1st/2nd Grade: 6 minutes

7th/8th Grade: 9 minutes

3rd/4th Grade: 7 minutes

9th/10th Grade: 10 minutes

5th/6th Grade: 8 minutes

11th/12th Grade: 11 minutes

Students in any category may perform more than one piece within the time limit. It is not necessary to fill the entire time limit. If the entrant's program is more than the time limit, they will be stopped by the timekeeper without penalty.

PERFORMANCE AND REPERTOIRE RULES

Students performing Solos will do so without any other performer on stage except an accompanist, if applicable or someone assisting the accompanist (page turner).

Accompanists are permitted for Piano Concerto, String Solo, Woodwind Solo, Voice Solo, and Composition. Teachers may be the accompanist for these categories.

Orchestral tutti and accompanying segments may be cut, but *solo parts cannot be cut*.

Piano ensembles can use a maximum of two pianos.

Classical Repertoire

- Contains music literature from the following periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary. The Music Teachers National Association publishes a list of classical composers available at: https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Composer_Classifications.aspx
- May also include contemporary repertoire that is written in a classical form and that follows classical language, standards and treatment.
- Piano Classical Solos must be original compositions or commercially published transcriptions. A transcription is a faithful adaptation of the original piece to piano, measure by measure. Arrangements are not allowed.

Social Repertoire

- Contains music such as jazz, blues, boogie, ragtime, musical theater, movie, TV, video game, easy-listening, pop, rock, hymns, and pedagogical materials written in light contemporary harmonic language, standards, and treatment.
- Examples of composers with pedagogical material that are appropriate for Social categories are: Dennis Alexander, Melody Bober, Martha Mier, Kevin Olson, Catherine Rollin, etc.
- If the composer is considered historical, even if it is Contemporary or 20th Century, that composer cannot be considered for Social repertoire. Composers such as Pachelbel, Burgmuller, Debussy, Ibert, Kodaly, MacDowell, Prokofiev, etc. are NOT suitable for Social categories.
- Composers, like Gershwin, who composed in both classical and jazz genres may be used in either the Classical or Social category, however the same repertoire cannot be used for both categories.

Students who are entered in the incorrect category will be ineligible for awards. It is the teacher's responsibility to enter students into the correct category. When in doubt whether a composer is considered Classical or Social, please contact the Chairperson before you register your student.

COMPOSITION ENTRIES

Composition entrants will submit a shared link to a PDF file of their music score (from Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, etc.) The score can be notated in print form (Sibelius, Finale, Dorico, etc.) or handwritten.

Additionally, composition entrants must submit a link to a performance of their composition. This can be a YouTube video link or a MIDI file (from Sibelius, Finale, Dorico, etc.).

The composition may be performed by the composer, student(s), or professional(s).

A Google Form will be emailed directly to applicable teachers for collection of music score/performance links.

All composition entries must be received by Saturday, November 7th, 2026 11:59pm.

JUDGING AND AWARDS

There will be one judge for each category and school grade division, except for Classical Piano Solo (see below). The judge will be a qualified professional from the music community.

Classical Piano Solo will have two judges present for grades 3rd-12th. 1st and 2nd grade Classical Piano Solo will have one judge only.

The judge will write an adjudication for each student. Adjudications will be sent to the teacher after the entire competition concludes.

The judge will award at least a First Place or Second Place for each division. Honorable Mentions will be given at the judge's discretion. Multiple Honorable Mentions are allowed.

All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation. First and Second Place winners will receive a medal. Honorable Mention winners will receive a ribbon.

Results will be announced immediately following each category/school grade division's performance on competition day. The results will also be published later in the NMTA newsletter and on their website at nvmta.com. There will *not* be a winner's recital.

The decision of the judge is final. If a parent or student confronts the judge, that student will be ineligible to participate the following year. If a teacher confronts a judge, that teacher's students will not be eligible to enter the competition the following year. Teachers, participants, and parents must maintain a professional attitude at all times during the competition.

VOLUNTEERING

During registration, teachers will sign-up for a day and time of day to volunteer.

The teacher may also Opt-Out of volunteer duties by choosing to pay the \$40 Opt-Out fee. No refunds.

If the teacher has signed up to volunteer, the Chairperson will email exact times and job duties 1-2 weeks prior to competition day to the email address entered during registration. *The teacher must reply and confirm their volunteer assignment.* Failure to do so will result in the teacher's students being ineligible for awards.

Failure to show up for a volunteer assignment will result in the teacher's students being ineligible to enter the competition the following year.

CHAIRPERSON

Communication with a Chairperson will be through the teacher. Parents and students do not contact the Chairperson(s) directly.

Chairperson – Marie Lee – marielee42.ml@gmail.com

Chairperson – Michelle Lee – michellelee1@hotmail.com