

IMA STATE OLYMPIC CONTEST

(IMA Competition)
(Updated 5-19-2025)

- 1. <u>ENTRY FEE:</u> \$42 per event. Piano students: if you would like to pick a specific day Saturday or Sunday, the fee is \$43. Senior Open and Virtuoso are on Sunday only fee \$42. Ukulele Festival fee: \$25. The fee for duets is \$45 per ensemble (\$22.50 per student). <u>Please submit the registration form, on google forms or a hard copy, with your payment, to NMA. The payment can be made by cash, check written out to NMA, or credit card. No additional charges for credit card payments.</u>
- 2. DEADLINE TO SUBMIT THE FEE AND REGISTRATION FORM: Saturday, March 1, 2025. Registration starts on Jan 6, 2025.

3. DESCRIPTION:

- A very demanding event where students compete against other students of the same proficiency level. Just being recommended by your teacher is confirmation of the student's abilities and talent.
- IMA Contest is the largest competition in Illinois. This is a wonderful and rare experience for all participating students, where they can learn from the performances of their peers.
- Please note that piano and violin students need a good instrument for at home practice to be competitive.
- In 2024, NMA had 74 students competing in this event, and 34 won trophies placing at the top of their competition class. Kudos to the wonderful NMA faculty whose competent guidance helped the students achieve such outstanding results.
- <u>Winners Recital:</u> All 1st place winners and Memorial Contest participants are eligible to participate in Winners Recital, on June 14, at the Beacon Hill Retirement Community in Lombard. Tentative times: 10 am and 2 pm. The event is free for performers and their families and friends. After the competition, all first-place winners will receive information on how to register for this event.
- 4. <u>WHO IS ELIGIBLE:</u> All NMA students enrolled in the 3rd and 4th quarters. The participation of students who drop out of the lessons will be cancelled. <u>Please consult your teacher whether your child would benefit from this experience.</u>
- 5. <u>CATEGORIES</u>: piano, violin, viola, cello, voce (classical, musical theater, pop/jazz/country), self-accompanied voice (NEW!), performance category (NEW!). In spite of my best efforts, <u>Guitar and Drums</u> competition has been cancelled this year due to the low enrollment in the past years. I am very sorry about the IMA Board's decision and I am hoping to bring the guitar and drums categories back in 2026.
- 6. <u>PIANO STUDENTS:</u> Students must have a full keyboard with 88 graduated weighted keys for practice at home to be competitive in this event. However, just participating in this event will bring inspiration and be a wonderful learning experience.
- 7. COMPETITION DATES: Saturday, May 31, 2025, voice solo and voice self-accompanied, piano (except for Senior Open and Virtuoso categories), and ukulele festival. (For Ukulele Festival see the link under the Competitions button). Sunday June 1, 2025, piano all levels, violin, viola and cello.
- 8. <u>COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS:</u> Ideally, the students will perform without any mistakes, at the required speed (tempo), with great expressiveness and dynamics. Oftentimes, 1 little mistake will take the students to the bottom of the competing class. It is our experience that students learn more when they don't win. They get inspired to require more of themselves for next year's competition.

- 9. <u>VOICE CATEGORIES:</u> There are 4 categories in vocal competition: pop/jazz, Broadway, classical, and self-accompanied performance students singing and accompanying themselves on piano, guitar or ukulele. A student can enter one or all the categories, as well as duets. The fee for each solo category is \$42. Pre-recorded accompaniment can be used at all events.
- 10. <u>WARM-UP ROOMS</u>: Strings 222 or lobby on the 2nd floor, voice 255. There are no warm-up rooms for piano students; they warm up before they play their song by playing a scale or anything else they prepared students are not allowed to warm up by playing an excerpt of their competition song.
- 11. NEW! SELF-ACCOMPANIED CATEOGYR for voice students who will accompany themselves on the piano, guitar or ukulele. They will be grouped by age and the focus of the performance is primarily on vocals. Music doesn't need to be memorized.
- 12. NEW! PERFORMANCE CATEGORY: This is for students of any level or age with special needs who would like an opportunity to perform. No required music list. Any student meeting the qualifications can participate. They will be evaluated individually and perform in a room, one on one with the judge. There will be no other competitors or audience, except for parents and the student's guests. Memorization is not required. Entry fee \$25. Each student gets a ribbon for participation.
- 13. LOCATION: Billy Graham Finer Arts Center, Wheaton College in Wheaton.
- 14. <u>REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS:</u> Strings and piano categories have required lists for each level, and the lists are mandatory. Voice category is left for the teachers to decide. Your teacher will suggest the song that would be most suitable for the student and allow for the best quality of performance. Voice students are grouped by style and age.
- 15. <u>ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS</u>: if you need <u>pre-recorded accompaniment</u>, please obtain one before the competition. Discuss with your teacher what would be the best accompaniment for your song. YouTube accompaniments, and accompaniments from streaming services are allowed.
- 16. <u>ACCOMPANIST FEE:</u> Violin students can play *a capella* (alone) or with a piano accompanist. Please note that, if you would like to use the services of an accompanist, there is an additional fee.
- 17. ORIGINAL MUSIC AND MEASURE NUMBERS: Students need to own original sheet music. It must be a clean copy only with measure numbers written in. The music will be submitted to the judge at the start of the competition event. Not having original music would disqualify a student from competing and they will be able to perform for comments only. Points will be deducted from students who don't have the measures numbered.
- 18. Music must be fully memorized, except for self-accompanied category.
- 19. <u>COMPETITION SCHEDULE:</u> Due to having over 1,200 competitors, competition rules do not allow refunds or changing the performance time. Since this event happens once per year, please leave the entire day of the competition free until you find out about the performance schedule. <u>We will know the exact performance</u> times about 2 weeks before the event. We will post the schedule on our web site and notify you immediately.
- 20. DRESS CODE: Semi-formal. No flip-flops, tank tops, shorts, etc.
- 21. <u>HOW THE EVENTS WORK:</u> Competitors compete with students of similar age and proficiency. The competitors are assigned a one-hour slot in which they perform with up to 10 other students. After the students in a designated time slot are done performing, the prizes are awarded, and families are welcome to leave unless they are competing in another event.
- Make sure to bring with you the original music and the accompaniment track (if you need one).
 Students without original music (book or paid download) will be disqualified.

WHAT TO DO IF INTERESTED:

Consult your teacher to determine if your child should enter this competition and what would be the
appropriate level and song for the student. We strongly encourage you to take your teacher's repertoire

suggestion, since their experience will help choose the song that is most appropriate for the student's age and proficiency level.

2. Fill out the google form or bring the completed hard copy of the registration form and the participation fee (see above) by March 1, 2025.

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Please let us know if you have any additional questions.