

# DOWNERS GROVE MUSIC CLUB

## 2018 Piano Festival and Competition

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

[www.downersgrovemusicclub.org/pianofestival](http://www.downersgrovemusicclub.org/pianofestival)

Chairpersons: Christine and Ron Paryl, [pianofest@downersgrovemusicclub.org](mailto:pianofest@downersgrovemusicclub.org)

**Note: This year you will be entering your student entry sheet via the [pianofest@downersgrovemusicclub.org](mailto:pianofest@downersgrovemusicclub.org) and not on a hand written form.**

#### Dates

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday, March 4, 2018    | Festival and Competition, Locations and Times TBD |
| Sunday, March 11, 2018   | Honors Recitals, TBD                              |
| Sunday, February 4, 2018 | Entry forms due                                   |

#### Eligibility

1. Students who currently reside in zip codes 60514, 60515, 60516, 60517, 60440, 60532, 60559, 60561, and Oak Brook residents in 60521 and 60523 or
2. Students of any teacher residing in the above zip codes or
3. Downers Grove Music Club members may enter any student without restriction.

**Each student may only enter either the Festival or the Competition, but not both, in one year.**

#### Piano Festival

The Piano Festival consists of five levels, graded from Level 1 to Level 5. Any student through high school grade 12 is eligible to enter the Festival. Festival awards are 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies or medals to students who are chosen to play in the Honors Recital (see Honors Recital below). 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies for Levels 1-5 are awarded to the highest score(s) in each level. All students entering the Festival will receive a certificate of participation and judge's evaluation sheet. Teachers may pick up their packet of certificates and judge's evaluation sheets the day after the Festival at the home of chairpersons Ron and Christine Paryl and distribute them accordingly to their students. Details will follow.

#### Musical Selections:

Students entering the Festival will be required to play two pieces of memorized music. One piece must be from the list of Required Repertoire. It is highly recommended that the second piece be chosen from the list of Required Repertoire as well, but not mandatory. If the second piece is not on the list of Required Repertoire, it must be approved by the committee. This must be done at least two months prior to the event (by January 8, 2018) by simply emailing the chairperson with the title, composer, period and performance length of the chosen piece. It is advised to send in this request as soon as possible to avoid any complications or last minute changes.

The chosen piece must be at the same level of difficulty as the required music for that level, not easier, not harder. Failure to follow this rule will result in a 10 point deduction from the total score. To ensure fairness, please enter the student at their current playing level, not one level below.

Both musical pieces, as well as required scales/chords, must be memorized or the student will be subject to disqualification from participation in the Honors Recital.

The student must provide a clean copy of the original score with measures numbered for the judge to view. Photocopies are not permitted. Digital formats of sheet music purchased online are permitted as long as a

receipt or proof of purchase is presented at the time of the performance. Take note that some original scores are found in a book compilation as well as sheet music; either is permitted. Also, the books listed on the list of Required Repertoire are given as guidelines. If you have a comparable edition of the piece from a different editor and/or publisher, it will be permitted as long as the arrangements are the same as the book listed and not in a different key or an easier version. Every piece listed at the Festival Level with the exception of Ooga Booga Boogie at Level 2 are original piano scores, not arrangements.

Repeats should be omitted only if the pieces exceed the allotted time limits. Email the chairperson for specific questions on repeats. For Levels 1-2, it is permissible for both pieces to be of the same composer, style, period/style. For Levels 3-5, teachers should ensure that the chosen piece is from a different composer and represents a different musical style than the required selection. Failure to do so will result in a 10 point deduction from the total score. The list of Required Repertoire categorizes the pieces by periods/styles: baroque, classical, romantic, modern, and jazz/rags/blues.

### Scales and Chords:

Each student must play a scale and chord progression. It is preferred that the scale and chords are in the same key as one of the musical pieces, but not required. The scale must be played in parallel motion, hands together. The chords must be played hands together. Both scale and chords must be memorized. Failure to play the scales and chords in the manner stated will result in a zero score for that portion. Use of the damper pedal is optional.

Level 1- One octave scale and I-V7-I chord progression

Level 2- Two octave scale and I-V7-I chord progression

Level 3- Two octave scale and I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression

Level 4- Four octave scale and I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression

Level 5- Four octave scale and I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression

### Time Limits:

Each level is allotted a certain amount of performance time. If the total length of the scales, chords and two pieces exceeds the student's allotted time, the judge will stop the student's performance. This will not affect the score unless the chosen piece is at a much higher level than the required piece. The judge will not give preference to more difficult music.

Level 1- 5 minutes

Level 2- 5 minutes

Level 3- 7 minutes

Level 4- 8 minutes

Level 5- 10 minutes

### Scoring:

The Piano Festival uses a point system:

10 Superior performance

9-8 Excellent performance, minor defects

7-6 Good performance, needs improvement

5-4 Fair performance, needs more work

For Levels 1-2:

The scale and chords = 10 points

The Required piece = 50 points

The Chosen piece = 50 points

Total = 110 points

For Levels 3-5:

The scale and chords = 10 points

The Required piece = 100 points

The Chosen piece = 100 points

Total = 210 points

Judges rate and comment on memory, accuracy of notes, accuracy of rhythm, tempo, technique, phrasing and articulation, dynamics, balance between hands, tone quality and pedaling (when applicable), style and interpretation. Students aim to achieve the highest score possible, but more importantly, they will receive judge's comments which are invaluable when learning an instrument. Students attaining the highest total scores at each Level will be asked to perform one of their pieces at the Honors Recital (see below).

### Extras

- Each student is allowed to warm-up on the piano prior to performing their graded scales/chords. The warm-up should not include any part of either of their scale/chords or performance pieces.
- Students are not required to announce their name or pieces and the judges do know the student's names but not their teacher's names.
- Students should dress appropriately in recital attire.
- Students are only allowed to bring one person into the Location. Nobody besides the student and the judge will be allowed in the judging room. Whoever accompanies the student may listen outside the closed door.
- We try to keep the event running on time, but due to unforeseen circumstances the event may run late. Please allow at least one hour total for the event.
- The day after the event, teachers will receive an email with the list of students who are asked to perform at the Honors Recital. Score sheets will be available for pick-up as well, details to follow.

### Piano Competition

The 2018 Competition will be held at the Downers Grove Public Library (1050 Curtiss St.), therefore will be open to the public for attendance.

The Competition consists of the Junior and Senior Competition. **The Junior Competition is open to students through tenth grade at the time of the competition. Senior level is open to students through twelfth grade at the time of the competition.** Previous first-place winners in the Junior or Senior Competitions are allowed to compete again, but are not eligible to win cash awards in the same level.

Some examples to clarify:

A 10<sup>th</sup> grader can win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Junior Competition and then enter the Senior Competition the following year and be eligible for a cash award.

A 9<sup>th</sup> grader can win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Junior Competition and then enter the Junior Competition the following year, but cannot win a cash award.

An 11<sup>th</sup> grader can win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Senior Competition and then enter the Senior Competition the following year, but cannot win a cash award.

A 10<sup>th</sup> grader can win 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Senior Competition and then enter the Senior Competition the following year and be eligible for a cash award.

Once a student enters the Senior Competition, they are no longer eligible to enter the Junior Competition.

**Competition awards are different than the Festival awards.** Students will still receive a judge's evaluation sheet and a certificate of participation. Medals will be given to students who are chosen to play in the Honors Recital (see Honors Recital below). There are cash prizes for the top students in each Competition. Teachers may pick up their packet of certificates and judge's evaluation sheets the day after the Festival at the home of chairperson, Ron and Christine Paryl, and distribute them accordingly to their students. Details to follow.

|                    |                                     |                        |                        |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Competition</u> | Junior Level: First Place: \$300.00 | Second Place: \$150.00 | Third Place*: \$75.00  |
| <u>Prizes</u>      | Senior Level: First Place: \$450.00 | Second Place: \$250.00 | Third Place*: \$125.00 |

\*Third Place at both Junior and Senior may be available if warranted. This will be determined at the Judge's discretion depending on the number of students competing as well as the overall total scores.

#### Musical Selections:

Students entering the Competition will be required to play two pieces of memorized music. One piece must be from the required list of music. It is highly recommended that the second piece be chosen from the list of Required Repertoire as well, but not mandatory. If the second piece is not on the list of Required Repertoire, it must be approved by the committee. This must be done at least two months prior to the event (by January 8, 2018) by simply emailing the chairperson with the title, composer, period and performance length of the chosen piece. It is advised to send in this request as soon as possible to avoid any complications or last minute changes.

The chosen piece must be at the same level of difficulty as the required music for that level, not easier, not harder. Failure to follow this rule will result in a 10 point deduction from the total score. To ensure fairness, please enter the student at their current playing level, not one level below. Both musical pieces, as well as required scales/chords, must be memorized or the student will be subject to disqualification from participation in the Honors Recital.

The student must provide a clean copy of the original score with measures numbered for the judge to view. Photocopies are not permitted. Digital formats of sheet music purchased online are permitted as long as a receipt or proof of purchase is presented at the time of the performance. Take note that some original scores are found in a book compilation as well as sheet music; either is permitted. Also, the books listed on the list of Required Repertoire are given as guidelines. If you have a comparable edition of the piece from a different editor and/or publisher, it will be permitted as long as the arrangements are the same as the book listed and not in a different key or an easier version. Every piece listed with the exception of Over the Rainbow in Junior Competition are original piano scores, not arrangements.

To ensure time limits, repeats should be omitted except DC al Fines or if the repeat is necessary to the form of the music. Email the chairperson for specific questions on repeats. For both Junior and Senior Competition teachers should ensure that the chosen piece is from a different composer and represents a different musical style than the required selection. Failure to do so will result in a 10 point deduction from the total score. The list of Required Repertoire categorizes the pieces by periods/styles: baroque, classical, romantic, modern, and jazz/rags/blues.

#### Scales and Chords:

Each student must play a scale and chords progression. Requirements in terms of number of octaves and which chord progression are listed on the Required Composition form. It is preferred that the scale and chords are in the same key as one of the musical pieces, but not required. The scale must be played in parallel motion, hands together. The chords must be played hands together. Both scale and chords must be memorized or the student will be subject to disqualification. Failure to play the scales and chords in the manner listed will result in a zero

score. Use of the damper pedal is optional.

Junior and Senior Competition: Four octave scale and I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression

Time Limits:

Each level is allotted a certain amount of performance time. If a student exceeds his allotted time, the judge will stop the student's performance. This will not affect the score unless the chosen piece is at a much higher level than the required piece. The judge will not give preference to more difficult music.

Junior and Senior Competition- 12 minutes

Scoring:

The Piano Competition uses a point system:

- 10 Superior performance
- 9-8 Excellent performance, minor defects
- 7-6 Good performance, needs improvement
- 5-4 Fair performance, needs more work

Junior and Senior Competition:  
The scale and chords = 10 points  
The Required piece = 100 points  
The Chosen piece = 100 points  
Total = 210 points

Judges rate and comment on memory, accuracy of notes, accuracy of rhythm, tempo, technique, phrasing and articulation, dynamics, balance between hands, tone quality and pedaling, style and interpretation. Students aim to achieve the highest score possible, but more importantly, they will receive judge's comments which are invaluable when learning an instrument. Students attaining the highest total scores at each Level will be asked to perform one of their pieces at the Honors Recital (see below).

Extras

- Each student is allowed to warm-up on the piano prior to performing their graded scales/chords. The warm-up should not include any part of either of their scale/chords or performance pieces.
- Students are not required to announce their name or pieces and the judges do know the student's names but not their teacher's names.
- Students should dress appropriately in recital attire.
- Students are only allowed to bring one person into the Location. Nobody besides the student and the judge will be allowed in the judging room. Whoever accompanies the student may listen outside the closed door.
- We try to keep the event running on time, but due to unforeseen circumstances the event may run late. Please allow at least one hour total for the event.
- The day after the event, teachers will receive an email with the list of students who are asked to perform at the Honors Recital. Score sheets will be available for pick-up as well, details to follow.

Honors Recital

Students attaining the highest total scores at each Festival Level or Competition will be asked to perform in the Honors Recital on Sunday, March 11, 2018 at either 1:30 or 3:00pm at the Downers Grove Public Library (1050

Curtiss St.)

Students asked to perform at the Honors Recital will receive a medal. We award a trophy to the top scoring students at the Festival Levels.

All awards, including cash prizes for the Competition, will be awarded at the Honors Recital. To receive Competition awards, the student must be present at their scheduled Honors Recital. If the student absolutely cannot make it due to schedule conflict, or if an illness or emergency occurs the day of, please notify your teacher as well as the chairperson so that everyone knows and the student can still receive their award. If a student does not show up without notice, all awards will be forfeited, including cash prizes for the Competition.