

**DOWNERS GROVE MUSIC CLUB**  
**Piano Festival and Competition**



**IN-PERSON EVENT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2025**

[www.downersgrovemusicclub.org](http://www.downersgrovemusicclub.org)  
[pianofest@downersgrovemusicclub.org](mailto:pianofest@downersgrovemusicclub.org)

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b><u>Dates</u></b>	<b>February 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Entry forms due (no extensions!)
	<b>Sunday, March 02, 2025</b>	Festival and Competition (All Students) Community United Methodist Church, 20 Center Street, Naperville
	<b>Sunday, March 9, 2025</b>	Honors Recitals (Selected Students) Afternoon times to be announced Downers Grove Public Library 1050 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove
	<b>Tuesday, April 08, 2025</b>	Rising Stars Concert (Competition First Place Winners) 7:00 pm Downers Grove Public Library 1050 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove

**Eligibility**

1. Students: up through high school grade 12 are eligible.
2. Teachers: members of the Downers Grove Music Club are eligible to register students. If you are not a member of the DGMC, we welcome you to join in order to be eligible to enter students in this event. If you are a returning member, please be sure your annual dues have been paid for this club year. New memberships and renewals may be done online at [www.downersgrovemusicclub.org](http://www.downersgrovemusicclub.org). Annual dues are \$30.00 for an individual membership.

**Registration and Fees**

Registrations are accepted online at <https://www.downersgrovemusicclub.org/pianofest.html>. Online registrations will be open through February 1, 2025.

**Fees:**

- Festival registration fee is \$25.00 per student
- Competition registration fee is \$50.00 per student

Payments are accepted online with a credit card, or may be paid by check payable to  
DGMC  
P.O. Box 551  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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#### **Festival & Competition Day-of Procedures**

- The students will perform a scale followed by a chord progression and two memorized pieces for a highly qualified judge (2 judges at the Competition level).
- Each student will be scheduled for a specific time to perform for the judge(s).
- Please arrive about 15 minutes in advance of the scheduled time.
- Please allow at least one-hour total for the event. We try to keep the event running on time, but due to unforeseen circumstances the event may run late.
- Only the student and the judge(s) will be allowed in the judging room. Whoever accompanies the student may listen outside the closed door.
- Once the student enters the judging room, each student is allowed to warm-up on the piano prior to performing his/her graded scales/chords. The warm-up should not include any part of either of their scale/chords or performance pieces. **NO WARMING UP ON AN AVAILABLE PIANO BEFORE THE JUDGE ARRIVES.**
- Students are not required to announce the name or their pieces.
- The judge(s) knows the student's name but the teacher's name is kept confidential.
- Students should dress appropriately in recital attire.
- The student must provide a one copy (two copies for the competition judges) of the original score with **measures numbered** for the judge(s) to view. Photocopies are not permitted with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> copy for the two competition judges. 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. Free downloads of Public Domain music (most music published prior to 1923 is in the public domain) are permitted as long as proof that the publication is in the public domain is provided. Failure to provide the proper musical score may result in disqualification from any awards and the Honors Recital.
- Please make sure to leave with your copies of music. The judge(s) may want to look the music over further after the performance but will return it shortly before the student leaves.
- The evaluation sheets and Honors Recital invitations will be made available to the teachers.

#### **Honors Recital**

Students attaining the highest total scores at each Festival Level or Competition will be asked to perform in one of the Honors Recitals.

All awards (medals, trophies and cash prizes) will be awarded at the Honors Recital.

- To receive these awards, the student must be present at their scheduled Honors Recital.
- The only exception to the attendance rule is an extenuating circumstance (illness or family emergency). Please notify your teacher as well as the chairperson. The student can still receive their award in this case.
- If a student does not show up without notice, all awards will be forfeited, including cash prizes for the Competition.

#### **Honors Recital Video Release Authorization**

A video recording of all performances at the Honors Recital will be made. The Downers Grove Music Club shares videos on its website, social media pages, and an unlisted YouTube channel. We would appreciate that parents of all participants complete the [Photo Release Form](#) BUT especially if you do not wish to grant permission for such use, the completion of this form is **required**.

#### **Rising Stars Concert**

Competition First Place winners are invited to perform on the annual Music Club's Rising Stars concert.

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## **PIANO FESTIVAL INFORMATION**

The Piano Festival consists of five levels, graded from Level 1 to Level 5.

### **Festival Awards:**

- All students entering the Festival will receive a certificate of participation;
- Students attaining the highest total scores at each Level will be asked to perform one of their pieces at the Honors Recital;
- Honors Recital participants will receive either medals or 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies.
- The trophies are awarded to the highest score(s) in each level;

### **Festival Scales and Chords:**

- Each student must play a scale and chord progression from memory. See required repertoire list for specific octave and chord requirements for each level.
- It is recommended 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. 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 on the chords is optional.

### **Festival Music Selections:**

- All students will perform two pieces, memorized;
- Both pieces must be from the list of Required Repertoire;
- Each piece selected must represent a different period in Music History as identified in the list of Required Repertoire. For example,
  - A level 1 student must select one piece from the combined periods of Baroque/Classical/Romantic and the second piece from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century period,
  - A level 2 or 3 student must select one piece from the combined periods of Baroque/Classical and the second piece from the combined periods of Romantic/20<sup>th</sup> Century,
  - The level 4 and 5 students may select one piece from any of the 4 periods – Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Impressionistic/20<sup>th</sup> Century – and then select the second piece from the other 3 periods.
- 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. Take note that some original scores are found in a book compilation as well as sheet music; either is permitted.
- Please include ALL Repeats unless the performance would exceed the allotted time limits.

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#### Festival Time Limits:

Each level is allotted a certain amount of performance time (see below). If the total length of the scales, chords and two pieces exceeds the student's allotted time, the judge may stop the student's performance. This will NOT affect the score.

- Level 1- 5 minutes
- Level 2- 5 minutes
- Level 3- 7 minutes
- Level 4- 8 minutes
- Level 5- 10 minutes

#### Festival Scoring:

The judge will 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 the piano.

- A point system is used to evaluate each of the aspects of musicianship listed above:
  - 10 Superior Performance
  - 9-8 Excellent performance, minor defects
  - 7-6 Good performance, needs improvement
  - 5-4 Fair performance, needs more work
- Total Scores Possible
  - Levels 1 and 2
    - Scale and Chords = 10 points
    - Each performance piece = 50 points
    - Total = 110 points
  - Levels 3, 4 and 5
    - Scale and Chords = 10 points
    - Each performance piece = 100 points
    - Total = 210 points

*If either the required scales/chords and/or the musical pieces are not performed from memory, the student will be disqualified from participation in the Honors Recital.*

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## **PIANO COMPETITION INFORMATION**

The Competition consists of the Junior and Senior Competitions.

### **Eligibility:**

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 student 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 student 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.
- A student 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 student 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:**

- All students entering the Competition will receive a certificate of participation;
- Students attaining the highest total scores at each Level will be asked to perform one of their pieces at the Honors Recital.
- Medals are awarded to students selected for the Honors Recital.
- Cash prizes are awarded for the top students in each Competition.
  - Junior Level:
    - First Place: \$300.00
    - Second Place: \$150.00
    - Third Place\*: \$75.00
  - Senior Level:
    - First Place: \$600.00
    - 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 judges' discretion depending on the number of students competing as well as the overall total scores.

### **Competitions Scales and Chords:**

- Each student must play a Four octave scale and I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression, memorized.
- It is recommended 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.

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#### Competitions Scales and Chords continued:

- 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 on the chords is optional.

#### Competition Music Selections:

- All students will perform two pieces, memorized;
- Both pieces must be from the list of Required Repertoire;
- Each piece selected must represent a different period in Music History as identified in the list of Required Repertoire. The competition students may select one piece from any of the 4 periods – Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Post Romantic – and then select the second piece from the other 3 periods.
- 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. Take note that some original scores are found in a book compilation as well as sheet music; either is permitted.
- Please include ALL Repeats unless the performance would exceed the allotted time limits.

#### Competition Time Limits:

Each competition level is allotted **12 minutes** of performance time. If the total length of the scales, chords and two pieces exceeds the student's allotted time, the judges may stop the student's performance. This will NOT affect the score.

#### Competition Scoring:

All students will perform for TWO judges. The judges will 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 the judges' comments which are invaluable when learning the piano.

- A point system is used to evaluate each of the aspects of musicianship listed above:
  - 10 Superior Performance
  - 9-8 Excellent performance, minor defects
  - 7-6 Good performance, needs improvement
  - 5-4 Fair performance, needs more work
- Total Score Possible (from each judge)
  - Junior and Senior Competition:
    - Scale and Chords = 10 points
    - Each performance piece = 100 points
    - Total = 210 points

*If either the required scales/chords and/or the musical pieces are not performed from memory, the student will be disqualified from participation in the Honors Recital and from winning the cash awards.*