MTAC SAN MATEO COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL RULES & GUIDELINES

Eligibility and Repertoire

1. Students in **school grades K-12** whose teachers are Active members of the MTAC San Mateo County Branch or invited MTAC branches.

2. Each contestant is eligible for **only one category**.

3. Repertoire from the latest CM syllabus corresponding to the contestant's current level must be registered and performed.

Registration and Enrollment

1. Eligible teachers must submit an online application with accurate information. The registered category and repertoire **cannot be changed**.

2. Registration will be confirmed **by email** only after successful verification of teacher membership and repertoire compliance. Unconfirmed registrations do not secure a spot in the event.

3. Registration fees are **non-refundable**, except for festival cancellation or registrations that cannot be accommodated. **Contestant-initiated withdrawals are non-refundable.**

Divisions and Categories

Division	Categories (by CM level)	Total Allotted Time	Registration Fee
Non-Competitive (Morning)	Prep and Level 1	3 minutes	$35
	Level 2 and 3	4 minutes	$40
Competitive (Afternoon / Evening)	Level 4 and 5	5 minutes	$50
	Level 6 and 7	7 minutes	$55
	Level 8 and 9	8 minutes	$60
	Level 10 (Advanced) and Panel	9 minutes	$65

1. Contestants may perform one or more pieces belonging to only one level in their registered category, or from both levels in their registered category. Exceptions - see “Non-Competitive Division”.

2. Contestants must perform the same repertoire as registered from memory. Performing with a music score will result in a **Non-Compliant performance rating and ineligibility for placement.**

3. Pieces must be accurately timed, accounting for chosen tempo, memory lapses, and pauses within the allotted time. Repeats may be played at contestants' discretion, provided the time limit is observed. **All overtime performances will be stopped.**

Adjudication

Contestants are evaluated on the quality of their musical performance, not the quantity of repertoire performed.

Adjudicators reserve the right to stop a performance once sufficient material has been heard to make an evaluation.

Non-Competitive Division

1. All performing contestants will receive written feedback and a performance rating. No placements awarded.

2. Unmemorized performances and failure to provide a legally authorized music score for adjudication will result in "**Non-Compliant**" rating.

3. Students may perform registered repertoire one level higher than their entered Non-Competitive category, provided all selections are from the current CM syllabus. For example, a student in the "Prep and Level 1" category may perform one Level 1 piece and one Level 2 piece.

Competitive Division

1. All performing contestants will receive written feedback, a certificate and a performance rating. Placements are determined by numerical scores. Adjudicators reserve the right to withhold placements based on category/session size or if performance standards are not met.

2. Performing unregistered repertoire, unmemorized performances and failure to provide legal music score will result in "Non-Compliant" rating and **ineligibility for numerical scores and placements.**

3. Students must perform their registered repertoire, with all selections corresponding to CM levels within their entered category. **No exceptions.**

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Category and Session Arrangements

The festival reserves the right to combine categories into a single session or divide a category into multiple sessions.

Combined categories will be adjudicated **separately** and will not be ranked jointly. Each divided session will receive independent placement awards.

Event Day

1. Contestants must arrive **15 minutes before** the scheduled session. Late arrivals may result in revocation of participation, subject to the discretion of the adjudicator and festival admin.

2. Contestants must provide **legally authorized music scores** that are bookmarked and have the first measure of each system numbered.

3. Videography and photography are prohibited, with the exception of the awards presentation.

4. Pre-performance contact with the adjudicator is not permitted.

5. Contestants are encouraged to dress elegantly. Casual wear and sport shoes are not appropriate for the occasion.

All decisions made by the adjudicators and festival admin are final and not subject to appeal.