



IMA Competition
(Illinois Music Association Competition)
(Updated 7-21-2024)

- A very demanding event where students compete against other students of the same proficiency level. Just being recommended by your teacher is an exceptional confirmation of the student's abilities and talent.
- All NMA students enrolled in the 3rd and 4th quarters are eligible.
- 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 in order 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.
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New This Year:

- **Guitar and drums** students will perform in classes with students of different levels but will be judged only on their specific level. At the end of each competing class, before announcing the awards, the judge will give a master class to the participating students and help them identify what they did well and what they can improve.
- **Winners Recital:** All 1st place winners are eligible to participate in Winners Recital, date TBD, at the Beacon Hill Retirement Community in Lombard. The event is free for performers and their families and friends. All first place winners will receive the information on how to register for this event at the competition.

1. **WHO IS ELIGIBLE:** All NMA students enrolled into the 3rd and 4th quarters. The participation of students who drop out will be cancelled. Please consult your teacher whether your child would benefit from this experience.
2. **PIANO STUDENTS:** Students attending piano classes should 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.
3. **DATES:** Saturday, June 7, 2025, voice, piano (except for Senior Open), guitar and drums. Sunday June 8, 2025 piano all levels, violin and viola.
4. **LOCATION:** Wheaton College in Wheaton.
5. **ENTRY FEE:** \$38 per event. Piano students: if you would like to pick a specific day – Saturday or Sunday, the fee is \$39. Fee for duets is \$42 per ensemble (\$21 per student). 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. For credit card payments please add a \$5 processing charge.
6. **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT THE FEE AND REGISTRATION FORM:** Saturday, March 1, 2025. Registration starts on Jan 20, 2025.
7. **REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS:** Violin, piano, and guitar have required repertoire lists for each level. Piano and strings repertoire list are mandatory; guitar list is only recommendation. Other instruments and voice are left to the teachers to decide. Your teacher will suggest the level and specific song that would be most suitable for the students and allow for the best quality of performance.

8. **PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS:** 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 and get inspired to require more of themselves.
9. **VOICE CATEGORIES:** There are 3 categories in vocal competition: pop/jazz, Broadway, and classical. A student can enter one or all of the categories, as well as duets. The fee for each solo category is \$38, and for duets it is \$21 per student. Pre-recorded accompaniment can be used at all events.
10. **DRUMS CATEGORIES:** There are 3 categories in drum competition: rudimental, complete drum set and open ad lib. A student can enter one or all of the categories. The fee for each category is \$38. Pre-recorded accompaniment can be used at all events.
11. **ACCOMPANIST FEE:** 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.
12. **VOICE STUDENTS' ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS:** if you need a pre-recorded accompaniment, 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.
13. **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 competition. 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.
14. **Music must be fully memorized.**
15. **Due to having over 1,200 competitors, competition rules do not allow refunds or changing the performance time. We will know the exact performance times about 2 weeks before the event. We will post the schedule on our web site and notify you immediately.**
16. **DRESS CODE:** Semi-formal. No flip-flops, tank tops, shorts, etc.
17. Competitors compete with students of similar age and proficiency. The competitors are assigned 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.
18. **Make sure to bring with you the original music and accompaniment, if you need one.**

WHAT TO DO IF INTERESTED:

1. Consult your teacher to determine if you should enter this competition and what would be the appropriate 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..
3. Make sure to clear your schedule on the competition day: June 7 or June 8, 2025. Unfortunately, due to over 1,200 students competing, the IMA Committee is not able to change performance times for any reasons.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.