

**Rochester Piano Teachers' Guild/NYS Music Teachers Association District 12
Gold Cup Festival**

FESTIVAL GUIDELINES

(updated September 4, 2025)

1. Student Repertoire Levels (formerly named “Classes”)

- a. Levels (formerly “classes”) have new names to correspond more closely with those used by composers and music publishers who often print them on the covers of scores. See section 1c below for a chart that shows the former Class names and the new Level names.
- b. Each year a student participates, you must advance them to the next higher Level if they auditioned in a previous year and earned a Superior rating at their prior Level. However, students who earned an Excellent rating may repeat the same Level with different music. Alternatively, you can skip a student forward through Levels if that choice best suits the student’s developing skills and musicianship.
- c. The new repertoire Level names corresponding to former Class names are:

Former “CLASS” names	New “LEVEL” names
Pre-Primary	Introductory I *
Primary I	Introductory II
Primary II	Introductory III
Primary III	Early Elementary I
Primary IV	Early Elementary II
Elementary I	Mid-Elementary I
Elementary II	Mid-Elementary II
Elementary III	Late-Elementary I
Elementary IV	Late-Elementary II
Medium	Intermediate I
Moderately Difficult I	Intermediate II
Moderately Difficult II	Late Intermediate I
Moderately Difficult III	Late Intermediate II
Difficult I	Early Advanced I
Difficult II	Early Advanced II
Very Difficult I	Advanced I
Very Difficult II	Advanced II
Musically Advanced I	Young Artist I
Musically Advanced II	Young Artist II

* Introductory I Level: Use this Level for students who are no more than eight years old on the festival date, and for a maximum of two years.

2. Auditions

- a. Each student must prepare and perform two memorized piano solos (for the Solo Event) for a panel of judges. The only exceptions are piano duets and hymns, which do not need to be memorized.
- b. Students will not be disqualified for using music in an audition. However, the teacher and student should note that the judges will not be able to give points for memorization. This will impact the student's final score.
- c. Teachers and/or parents should not discuss any student's audition with the judges.

3. Repertoire

- a. You are free to use a selection from any syllabi/list of published music when choosing repertoire. Alternatively, any level of appropriate pieces from any nationality or time period would be acceptable.
- b. The second piece must be written by a different composer.
- c. At the Mid-Elementary I and higher Levels, selections for the second piece must be by a standard composer of the "classical" literature and of any nationality or era.
- d. Complete pieces composed for the piano in original form should be used. The ONLY exceptions would be arrangements available in the earliest introductory level (such as "Primer") of a progressive method series. Examples of acceptable primer arrangements might be "Lightly Row" or "Lavender's Blue" or "It's a Grand Old Flag." Unacceptable pieces for any Level would be arranged or abridged versions of larger pieces, such as Beethoven's "Für Elise" or the "Ode to Joy" symphony theme, or Pop/Show Tunes/TV or Movie Themes. Please note that "Für Elise" is only acceptable in its complete, original 3-part form.

4. Piece Length

- a. Introductory I and Introductory II pieces should be at least 12 measures in length.
- b. Introductory III and above should be at least 16 measures in length.
- c. Repeats should be avoided in larger works.
- d. The total time for both pieces combined must fit into a 10-minute audition.

5. Music Scores

- a. Photocopied music will not be accepted. Digitally-produced scores will be accepted if accompanied by appropriate documentation or permission from the composer/website generating the score, OR from the publisher stating that the score is out of print, OR proof that the score is in the public domain. Original scores are preferred.
- b. Students using their music (such as for duets or hymns) MUST provide an additional original score for the judges.
- c. Measure numbers must be written at the beginning of each new line of music so that judges can refer to specific measures in their comments.

6. Events

- a. All audition events are encouraged, including Piano Solo, Duet, and Hymn.
- b. Ensemble events should be performed by students within two levels of their own — and of each other's — solo levels.

7. Fees

- a. Student participation fees are **\$30.00** per event entered.

8. Special Circumstances

- a. A “Specially Capable Student” identifies a student who requires exceptions to the general requirements, such as memorization, progression, etc.
- b. SCS can be a temporary or permanent circumstance. SCS status must be applied for and considered from year-to-year, whether temporary or permanent.
- c. A checkbox on the student application will indicate the necessity for consideration. Teachers will receive a form to submit an explanation as well as a parent signature.
- d. The judges will receive an explanation on the student’s SCS status.

9. Entry Applications (on the RPTG website)

- a. The teacher must be a current member of the Rochester Piano Teachers’ Guild, Inc.
- b. Each teacher will be assigned a unique ID letter. Students should be identified on the application with this letter and an accompanying number, such as B1, B2, B3. Use the same ID letter you used in the most recent year of the Festival. Spell each student’s name exactly the same way every year on the application form. Student numbers must be consecutive starting with ID1, ID2, ID3, ID4, etc. Your teacher ID letter is the same each year. Do not skip any numbers.
- c. We are unable to offer you a printed version of your applications. Please maintain your own record-keeping, including your “*Teacher Report*” given to you with student certificates after each festival. We have a very large database of students going back to 1999. If you lose track of student information, please contact us.
- d. Collect your student fees. The fee is **\$30.00** per student per event. (If one student will perform in two events, the fee for that student is \$60.00.)
- e. **All participation fees and submitted online applications are due no later than December 7, 2025.**

Your total student fees should be sent in one check made out to **Rochester Piano Teachers Guild, Inc.** (ESM teachers excepted).

Mail your check to: Jeanne Strong
 33 Farm Field Lane
 Pittsford, NY 14534

After Jeanne records each teacher’s payment and total number of participating students, she will give the check to the RPTG Treasurer, who will deposit it into the RPTG Festival account.

10. Noteworthy Achievers Award (NAA)

- a. This award is open to high school juniors and seniors who previously received a Gold Cup award, but lack the number of remaining high school years to earn enough points to be awarded an additional cup.
- b. Students must be previous Gold Cup Festival participants.
- c. Students must follow leveling guidelines.
- d. Students must receive a Superior rating.
- e. The NAA can be earned in BOTH the junior and senior high school years.

11. Point System on the Rating Sheet

- a. Checkmarks on the Rating Sheet in the “A” column are worth 5 points. Checkmarks in the “B” column are worth 4 points. Checkmarks in the “C” column are worth 3 points. There are 7 categories that are evaluated for each piece. Point totals of 32-35 earn a Superior Rating.

12. Gold Cup Awards

- a. Students receiving a Superior rating at the yearly festival receive a "Superior Rating" certificate.
- b. Students who receive a perfect score of 35 points are awarded a special "Stadt Star" sticker on their Superior Rating certificate. This honors the memory of RPTG teacher and former Festival chairperson, Janet Stadt.
- c. A Superior rating = 5 points toward a gold cup.
An Excellent rating = 4 points toward a gold cup.
A Good rating = 3 points toward a gold cup.
- d. Gold Cups are awarded when the following totals of points are earned:
 - 15 Points – First Cup
 - 30 Points – Second Cup
 - 45 Points – Third Cup
 - 60 Points – Fourth Cup
- e. The Gold Cup trophy is a gold cup mounted on a heavy marble base, made locally. Teachers are responsible for the personalized engraving of the gold plates that are provided with each cup.

13. Teacher Volunteer Requirement on Festival Day

- a. Every teacher who registers students for the Festival is required to volunteer either a half day or a full day on Festival Day. Room monitors are needed for each of the eight audition rooms; Festival Registrars are needed at the registration desk; Hall Guides are needed to direct students to their audition rooms; and others are needed as "Runners."