

January 2025



Welcome to the 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PIANO FESTIVAL sponsored by the PIANO TEACHERS FORUM located in central NEW JERSEY. The Festival will be held in the Music Building at TCNJ on Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **This year we are also offering a virtual option, SKIP TO PAGE 7 FOR VIRTUAL INFORMATION.**

The festival will provide performance opportunities for students playing piano solos. The festival is an incentive program designed to nurture the students' love of music. Each student entering will have the opportunity to have his or her best performances of two selections (one chosen from the syllabus and one contrasting piece) evaluated by one of the finest artists/teachers in the area. We hope that this opportunity will encourage them to share their love of music through performance. Each student will receive a gift, adjudication and a certificate of participation with ribbons for Outstanding, Excellent, Good, and for Fine Effort.

Our theme this year is "All That Jazz". If a student receives an Outstanding ranking, he or she will be eligible to participate in the Honors Recital, which will take place on Saturday, March 22, 2025 and Sunday March 23, 2025 at The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Road, Princeton, NJ 08540.

The entry fee is \$45.00 per student. In addition, each participating teacher must work at the Festival. Therefore, to enter your students, please fill in the Registration form, as well as the Job Sign-up Form. The student and teacher registration forms must be completed by **January 31, 2025 for in-person audition registration. No incomplete or late entries will be accepted; NO CHANGES will be made to either selection once the application is received. NO SCHEDULING CHANGES PERMITTED.**

**Student in-person registration form:**

<https://www.jotform.com/build/243637188962167>

**Teacher registration form:**

<https://www.jotform.com/build/233374789363166>

If you have any questions or concerns about the festival rules, you may direct them to Hope Osborn. Many thanks for your dedication and cooperation. We look forward to seeing you there.

PIANO TEACHERS FORUM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

**Hope Osborn-** Festival Chairperson Recital Coordinator [Hopeosborn@gmail.com](mailto:Hopeosborn@gmail.com)

**Austin Beaver-** Syllabus Committee [beaver.austin@outlook.com](mailto:beaver.austin@outlook.com)

**Piano Teachers Forum**  
**2025 Spring Piano Festival**

## **ART COMPETITION**

### **"All That Jazz"**

The Piano Teachers Forum of Central New Jersey Festival is seeking student art entries for the 2025 Spring Piano Festival to decorate our festival day displays this year. The winners will receive an iTunes gift card!

#### Piano Festival Art Entry Form

1. Student must be participating in the **2025 Spring Piano Festival**
2. Artwork should be in **COLOR**
3. Artwork should reflect this year's theme, **"All That Jazz"**
4. Due **MARCH 1, 2025, no late submissions will be accepted.**
5. Email a scanned copy to [Hopeosborn@gmail.com](mailto:Hopeosborn@gmail.com) Include the following information in the submission.

Artist Name:

Artist Age:

Teacher:

Teacher's Email:

# PIANO TEACHERS FORUM FESTIVAL

## Summary of Job Descriptions

### **Advance Preparations**

*Judges Coordinator* - Recruit judges, handle papers, briefing, lunch orders, payment, gifts for judges  
*Paperwork* - Photocopy & assemble packets of evaluation sheets and certificates. *Recitals* – Schedule students for Honors Recitals, print programs, manage procedures. *Scheduling* - Process money and forms. Schedule playing slots. Related mailings, lists, etc.

### **Festival Day**

*Set up* - Arrange furniture, rooms, label doors, rooms, etc. Place signs indoors & outdoors.  
*Registration* – Greet and check off arriving students' names on the Master Schedule.  
*Waiting Room Monitor* -"Host" students before they go to Alcove; maintain student roster.  
*Runner* - Call students from the Holding Area to your alcove; monitor schedule. *Alcove Monitor* -"Host" 2 judges and 6 students, keep track of schedule & papers. *Gifts Distribution* - Distribute gifts; clean up at the end of day.  
*Tallying* – Process evaluation sheets, record ratings, assemble teachers' envelopes. *Clean Up* - Rearrange furniture, straighten. Remove all signs & paperwork.

**Many jobs have already been assigned. The following are still needed:**

Setup

Registration

Runner

Alcove Monitor

Gift Distribution

Tallying

Waiting Room Monitor

Floater

Cleanup

There are about 40 jobs that need to be filled for the Festival. We will do our best to honor your job request, but please be aware that we may ask you to fill a different position based on the needs of the Festival. Teachers assigned to advance jobs may also be asked to serve on Festival day.

**Any teacher entering students who cannot work the day of the festival must send an adult substitute. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**



## *PTF Piano Festival*

CONGRATULATIONS! We are pleased to inform you that you have been selected by your piano teacher to participate in the 2025 Piano Teachers Forum Festival to be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at the Music Building, The College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ, 08628. For directions, please go to [www.tcnj.edu](http://www.tcnj.edu).

We know how much effort you have put into practicing in order to perform well. It is an honor to be asked to perform for one of the finest artists/pedagogues in the country on Festival Day.

Your scheduled time to play \_\_\_\_\_

Please arrive at the college by \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MUSIC WITH YOU, WITH THE MEASURES  
NUMBERED AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH LINE FOR THE JUDGES.**

**PHOTOCOPIES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

**SOLO REPERTOIRE MUST BE PERFORMED BY MEMORY.**

**APPROPRIATE ATTIRE IS REQUIRED.**

We hope that you will enjoy this day and that you will continue to share your love of music in many future performances.

Best wishes for an exciting and rewarding Festival Day!

## Piano Teachers Forum of Central New Jersey Festival

### Rules and Information

The Piano Teachers Forum Festival is designed to be a motivational performance opportunity for musicians of all ages and skill levels. Entrants perform prepared selections in a non-competitive environment for widely-respected adjudicators. Each performer receives written comments on his/her performance, a Certificate of Participation, and a gift as a remembrance of the occasion.

#### Performance Expectations

1. All pieces must be performed from memory.
2. Students must provide music with measure numbers at the beginning of each line for the judges. Only authorized photocopies will be accepted. If music is being downloaded, there must be a legitimate website printed on the bottom; if printed from CD-ROM, the CD must be brought to the Festival with a printed copy. **Students with unauthorized photocopied music will play for comments only and will be denied a ribbon. Playing from an Ipad or tablet is not allowed. These students will play for comments only and will be denied a ribbon.**
3. The student will perform for the judge without other observers. Teachers and parents may not confer with adjudicators about students during the Festival or the student will be disqualified.
4. Each student will:
  - a. **Bow before they audition and bow after their audition is complete. This is to ensure students eligible for the Honors Recitals know proper performance practice.**
  - b. play a specific memorized warm-up exercise assigned by his/her teacher. The purpose of this exercise is to allow time for the student to adjust to the piano (all pianos on site will be tested and assessed by the judge prior to the festival).
  - c. perform one piece selected from the syllabus.
  - d. perform one piece contrasting in style and/or period (Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary). No arrangements or excerpts are permitted. All pieces must be original piano literature. Both selections must be of a comparable level.

Performance times are as follows:  
Levels 1 & 2.....8 minutes  
Levels 3 & 4.....10 minutes  
Levels 5 & 6.....11 minutes  
Levels 7 & 8.....14 minutes

### Awards

All entrants will receive written comments on their performance to use with their teacher for further study.

All participants will also receive a Certificate of Participation. Ribbons will be attached for *Outstanding, Excellent, Good* and *Fine Effort* Performances.

Each entrant will receive a Festival gift.

If a student receives an *Outstanding* ranking, he or she will be eligible to participate in the Honors Recital.

### Registration and Scheduling

1. Active PTF members may submit an unlimited number of performances.

**Since our Festival is cooperative and attracts a large number of students, it is imperative that each participating PTF teacher complete an appropriate job related to the Festival. Jobs will be assigned by the Festival Committee. We reserve the right to accept only students entered by PTF teachers who meet their job requirements.**

2. Festival participants must be in at least the First Grade and no younger than 6 years old as of January 1<sup>st</sup> the year of the Festival (no 4 or 5 year olds).

3. No applications will be processed after the given deadline.

4. Due to the number of students and the complications involved, we cannot accommodate specific scheduling requests. However, to the best of our ability, we will honor your broad preferences as indicated on the application.

5. Students may participate on any level represented on the syllabus, regardless of age.

6. No fees will be refunded.

7. No student substitutions will be accepted.

# **January 2025- VIRTUAL AUDITION INFORMATION**

Dear Colleagues,

Our theme this year is “**All That Jazz**”. Music is a great way for students to take adventures through their imaginations despite the ongoing COVID-19 health concerns. The Spring Festival this year will have a virtual option.

**Deadline for Registration and Video Submission for the VIRTUAL AUDITION: Friday, March 1, 2025.** We hope that you will encourage your students to participate! Results and ribbons will be given from the virtual auditions on March 15, the day of the in-person festival.

The **40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PIANO FESTIVAL** sponsored by the **PIANO TEACHERS FORUM** *located in central New Jersey* is an incentive program designed to nurture the students’ love of music. Each student entering will have the opportunity to have his or her best performances of two selections (one chosen from the syllabus and one contrasting piece) evaluated by one of the finest artists/teachers in the area. We hope that this opportunity will encourage them to share their love of music through performance.

This year, each student will receive an adjudication and a certificate of participation with ribbons for Outstanding, Excellent, Good, and for Fine Effort. A sample adjudication form is attached and will be sent digitally. A hard copy of the certificate will be mailed to teachers this year.

If a student receives an Outstanding ranking, he or she will be eligible to participate in the Blue Ribbon Honors Recital, which will take place on Saturday, March 22, 2025 and Sunday March 23, 2025 at The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Road, Princeton, NJ 08540.

**Artwork Contest- please see above. Students participating in the virtual auditions are also invited to participate in the artwork contest.**

## **Registration and Scheduling**

The entry fee is \$45.00 per student. Teachers or students can register. **Student registration is due by March 1st, the registration MUST include the Video links. Do not have the student register before they have the video performance completed. All teacher registrations are still due by January 31st. No applications will be processed after the given deadline. No fees will be refunded.**

## **REGISTER HERE:**

**Students (parents or teachers can register) by March 1, 2025**

<https://www.jotform.com/build/243637207221147>

**Teacher Information/Duty Form by January 31, 2025**

<https://www.jotform.com/build/233374789363166>

If you have any questions or concerns about the festival, you may direct them to Hope Osborn by email (Hopeosborn@gmail.com). Many thanks for your dedication and cooperation. We look forward to your participation!

## Virtual Audition- Festival Rules and Information

The Piano Teachers Forum Festival is designed to be a motivational performance opportunity for musicians of all ages and skill levels. Entrants perform prepared selections in a non-competitive environment for widely-respected adjudicators. Each performer receives written comments on his/her performance, a Certificate of Participation, and a gift as a remembrance of the occasion.

### Performance Expectations

1. All pieces must be performed from memory.
2. Each student will:
  - a. **Bow before they play and bow after their audition is complete.**
  - b. perform one piece selected from the syllabus.
  - c. perform one piece contrasting in style and/or period (Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary). No arrangements or excerpts are permitted. All pieces must be original piano literature. Both selections must be of a comparable level.

Performance times are as follows:

Levels 1 & 2.....8 minutes

Levels 3 & 4.....10 minutes

Levels 5 & 6.....11 minutes

Levels 7 & 8.....14 minutes

### Awards

All entrants will receive written comments on their performance to use with their teacher for further study. All participants will also receive a Certificate of Participation. Ribbons will be attached for *Outstanding*, *Excellent*, *Good* and *Fine Effort* Performances. If a student receives an *Outstanding* ranking, he or she will be eligible to participate in the Virtual Honors Recital.



# Virtual Audition Instructions

We encourage students to video record on an acoustic instrument, if available, for the best possible sound (however, performances on digital pianos will be accepted as well). We suggest having a parent video record using a smartphone. The video must have audio, and the entire performer must be visible throughout. It must be clear that the student is playing by memory.

**Two separate video links for the two pieces will be required.** Bowing is required before and after the performance. Teachers or Parents can upload videos to YouTube and register, along with scans of the sheet music. Our website ([www.pianoteachersforum.org](http://www.pianoteachersforum.org)) has many examples of Blue Ribbon intermediate and advanced students if you'd like to check them out!

Instructions for Uploading Video and Sheet Music:

After your audition has been filmed, upload it as an "unlisted" YouTube video (see below).

Video Format: YouTube accepts any of the following video formats: .MO, .MPEG4, MP4, .AVI, .WMV, .MPEGPS, .FLV, 3GPP, and WebM.

Upload: Follow these directions to upload your completed video to an unlisted YouTube file. You can do this through the YouTube App or on a Computer.

1. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and sign in. If you don't already have an account, create one. It can be easily linked to a gmail account.
2. Click the "UPLOAD" button at the top.
3. Either click on the "Select files to upload" box and select your video file from your device or drag/drop your video file into the box.
4. In the "Basic Info" screen, enter the appropriate title with the Student's Name in the box where the filename appears.
5. In the box below the title, enter the name of the piece being recorded.
6. Click the box that indicates the video is appropriate for children under 18.
7. Change the privacy setting from "Public" to "Unlisted."
8. Click "Done."
9. When the video is finished, copy the URL and paste it into your registration.
10. Attach images of student's music in PDF form in the same registration. It is acceptable to have markings.

Thank you for your help! We are thrilled that technology allows us to hold this event despite the challenges presented by current events. We know you have all worked very hard! Good luck to all of your students!

## **Checklist for Video Upload**

- **Did my student bow before and after each video?**
- **Is the entire body of the student visible?**
- **Is the student visibly memorized?**
- **Does the YouTube link have my student's name as the Title?**
- **Did I scan both pieces of music?**

**By sending the video link, you hereby grant consent for this video to be viewed by an adjudicator for evaluation purposes.**