

Quick Start Guide to WMTA District Auditions (for Piano Solo)

For more details on rules, or more info on duets or other instruments, please visit the District Auditions section of the WMTA website (<https://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com/district-auditions>)

Different Tracks – What Do They Mean?

- “Track”, in WMTA, implies the different divisions a student can enter.
- See the separate headings below for details on Theory and Repertoire requirements.
- Only Regional track entrants in grades 4-12 can advance to the Regional Competition. They must receive 14/15 points in performance and 4/5 points in theory.
- Only the winners at Regional who are grades 7-12 can advance to the State competition.
- For information on Regional and State Competition, see the WMTA website.

| Track | Reg. Fee | Grades | Performance and Theory Reqs. | Max Points |
|----------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| D2 | \$25 | 1-12 | 2 pieces memorized | 10 points (5 each) |
| | | | Theory test, any level | 5 points |
| D2NM | \$25 | 1-12 | 2 pieces, performed with music | 8 points (4 each) |
| | | | Theory test, any level | 5 points |
| D3 | \$30 | 7-12 | 3 pieces= 2 memorized + 1 w/music | 15 points (5 each) |
| | | | Theory test, any level | 5 points |
| Regional | \$30 | 1-12 | 3 pieces memorized | 15 points (5 each) |
| | | | Theory test, leveled by grade | 5 points |

Theory Test

- All entrants are required to take a theory test at the audition site. (See Table 1 above for the level requirements for different tracks.)
- Theory Test levels do not align perfectly with any method book, but you can find practice tests and study guides at the District Auditions section of the WMTA website.
- The test takes 20-30 minutes to complete, depending on level. Paper keyboards are provided as a reference during the test.
- Corrected tests will be returned to teachers.
- In cases of a learning disability or the student cannot yet read, the student’s teacher should contact the District Chair ahead of the application due date to discuss an amenable solution.
- **Students in all tracks may score 90% on a specific theory level twice before being required to move up to the next level.** Teachers may elect to move their students up sooner at their discretion, or because of Regional Track minimums (see Table 2).
- **Students in Regional Track must complete at least the minimum theory level recommended for their grade** (see Table 2). Students in tracks D2, D2NM, and D3 may choose the theory test best suited for their level, as long as they move up after two years of 90% scores on one level.
- If the student is doing Regional track in multiple instruments, they are allowed to take both minimum required theory tests allowed for their instruments, OR only the higher level of the two.

| Grade | Piano/Organ | Vocal/Instr. |
|-------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | Pre-Elem. | Pre-Elem. |
| 2 | Pre-Elem. | Pre-Elem. |
| 3 | Pre-Elem. | Pre-Elem. |
| 4 | Elem. A | Elem. A |
| 5 | Elem. B | Elem. A |
| 6 | Elem. C | Elem. A |
| 7 | Int. A | Elem. B |
| 8 | Int. A | Elem. B |
| 9 | Int. B | Elem. C |
| 10 | Int. C | Elem. C |
| 11 | Int. C | Int. A |
| 12 | Adv. A | Int. A |

The Audition Room / Repertoire

- Practice rooms are available to students for the entire Auditions Day.
- Auditions are closed (only the student and judge in each room) except for Regional track, where parents *may* be allowed in the room if the judge allows.
- Talking to or discussing the score with the judge is prohibited, and no video or recording devices of any kind are allowed. Violation of these rules may result in disqualification for the student.
- **All entrants must play pieces that are stylistically different.** Additionally, older D2 students (grades 7-12) and all D2-NM require students to perform pieces by different composers. Younger D2 students (grades 1-6) as well as D3 registrants are *encouraged but not required* to play pieces by different composers. All Regional track students must play pieces from different

composers in contrasting styles **AND one must be written by an eligible [WMTA Baroque & Classical Composer](#).**

- Spirituals and folk song arrangements are allowed. For piano auditions, any other arrangements or transcriptions, i.e. music not originally written for piano solo, are not allowed.
- One or more movements from a Sonata, Sonatina, or Suite may be played as one “piece”, or any combination from a Theme and Variations.
- All pieces must be at least 16 measures long; but two smaller pieces by the same composer may be combined and count as one “piece”. No points will be awarded if the piece is shorter than 16 measures.
- Students must bring an original score for the judge with measures numbered. No photocopies are allowed, except legally purchased and downloaded music. In that case, the parent must download and sign the [WMTA Copyright Representation Form](#) and bring it to Auditions. Failure to comply will result in no points being awarded for the piece.
- Measures must be numbered for all entrants in grades 7-12. If the measures are not numbered, one point will be deducted from the total performance score.

Awards

- Points accumulate per student, per instrument, and includes District Auditions, Regional and State Competition.
- Duet points count toward both students’ individual points for that instrument.
- One theory test can count toward multiple instruments’ points for the same student.
- Plaques are earned at 22, 100, and 200 points. Bars (for the plaques) are earned every 25 points in between.
- Students who participate in District Auditions for all four years of high school earn a special medal.
- Awards are distributed immediately after District and Regional events. Personalized awards, such as 100- and 200-point plaques, and 4-year High School awards, will take about 2 weeks to receive.

Registration

- As of 2023, registration will take place on a new online system called **Cadence**. This is a state-wide system in the final stages of development by WMTA. More information will follow in approximately 6-8 weeks.
- WMTA membership must be current in order to register students for auditions. (Before October 15 of the school year.) Otherwise, you must pay a non-member fee of \$100 to your district chair. New members pay only the regular membership fee.
- Paper registrations are not accepted.
- Registration is open from January 1 until the application due date for your district (Madison is February 10, 2023).
- Registrations must be complete to be considered eligible. No changes to repertoire or theory level will be allowed after the application due date. Changes to other tracks are not allowed after the due date.
- Payment must be postmarked before or on the application due date. (See Table 1 at the top of the first page for fee info.)
- We will have instructions for payment (printing a fee form that accompanies one check made out to WMTA) after Cadence is up and running. Specific instructions on payment will be forthcoming.
- Please only send one check, made out for the total amount. Do not send certified mail.

Teacher Work Required

- WMTA Auditions are a volunteer-driven event, and teachers enjoy seeing each other at this event. We are always looking for more teachers, parents, and older students to help!
- Teachers will be expected to work an AM or PM shift at District Auditions (approx. 3 hours). Teachers are responsible to make sure they or their substitute are signed up for a shift. Work outside of Auditions Day does not count.
- If you suddenly cannot work your shift, you must find a substitute to work for that time. Send their name and contact info to the District Chair ASAP.
- If you and/or your sub do not show and cannot be reached, you will be charged \$75 by WMTA, dependent on circumstances. If the payment is not received within 30 days of the invoice, your students will be barred from WMTA events for one year.
- Student results, comment forms, and certificates will be available at the end of the day. Each teacher (not a proxy) should plan to pick them up. Otherwise, they will be mailed to the teacher within 48 hours.