

Dear NVMTA teachers,

I hope this email finds you all safe and well in these upside-down uncertain times!

A bit of good news for you: **SONATA FESTIVAL WILL HAPPEN THIS YEAR! The festival will be held online. Registration is now open on MTFest.** We have made the following modifications to the event in order to guarantee an opportunity for all the students who look forward to earning their trophy each year, and have worked hard already on their yearly Sonatas and Sonatinas:

1. **This festival will be ONLINE ONLY**, by YouTube video submission. Students will submit [unlisted] videos of themselves performing their two Sonata/Sonatina movements by memory. Submission format and procedure to be announced after registration.
2. **The Registration Deadline has been extended to April 24.** Student video submissions must be received by the end of the day May 24.
3. This year's festival will be **FIRST ROUND ONLY**. There will be no second round, and therefore no Honors Recital this year.
 1. Students will still have the opportunity to earn Second Round ribbons - the First Round judges will indicate which students have *earned* a pass to the Second Round, and those students will be acknowledged for their extra effort and preparation with a Second Round red ribbon.
4. **Judges will be instructed to NOT consider recording quality or instrument quality in their evaluation** - students will be submitting videos from a wide range of resources. Some may have Steinways and professional recording equipment in their homes; others may only have cell phones and keyboards. Acoustic pianos will be in all states of tuning, maintenance and/or disrepair. These students should have the same opportunity to be heard fairly and based on their performance and effort, not on the professional grade of the video itself.
5. Judges will stop the videos at the time limit cutoff. If your student's repertoire is longer than the allowed time, plan for cuts, skip repeats, etc. to fit within the time limit just as attending a "live" festival would warrant.
6. Trophies and Red Ribbons will be distributed after the festival judging is completed TBA, by a process that will be in accordance with whatever social distancing measures are in place at that time.

Unrelated to the current health crisis:

Reminder of the new Contrasting Movement rule, voted by the board in September:

Sonata/Sonatina movements may be by the same composer or by different composers. Students must enter two contrasting movements: EITHER contrasting tempos (slow/fast, with “fast” defined as Allegretto or faster) OR contrasting time periods (Baroque/Classical/Romantic/Contemporary).

We are unable to make changes to the registration form on MTFest at this time, which currently only reminds you of the tempo requirement - you can indicate a contrast in time period instead by parenthesis [ex. “Mozart - *Sonata in C Major, K. 545, Mvt. 1, Allegro (Classical)*” with “Scarlatti - *Sonata in A Minor, K. 149, L. 93, Mvt. I, Allegro (Baroque)*”]

I look forward to your participation in this year’s (online) Sonata Festival!

Musically yours,

Tasha Locke, Sonata Festival chair
tasha@arpeggiomusicschool.com

Dominique Shim and Lai-Lan Ko, co-chairs