

August 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the new year! We, the NFMC Federation Festival committee, are excited for another fantastic year for both teachers and students. The festival will take place on **SATURDAY, March 8th, 2025, at the music building of Grand Rapids Community College.**

1. **The online registration is due on January 10th** for all participating students. We'll be using the same Vivace system. Before you register your students, please carefully read the Festival Bulletin rules to ensure that your information is accurate and complete. We've found that making changes later on the computer can be time consuming and complex, involving multiple layers of administrators. Your best efforts to ensure accuracy from the start will be greatly appreciated!
2. **The fee for each event is \$20.** After you complete the registration, you will receive a Vivace invoice. Please send a single check for all your students' fees to our treasurer, Laurie Steffen, at 8030 60th St. SE, Alto, MI 49302. Additionally, please be aware that Brad Osborn funds are available to support families in need of financial assistance.
3. **The volunteer form** this year will be an online Google doc. Be sure to submit the online form by the registration due date. As in previous years, we expect all teachers entering students to volunteer either a half or full day. Your volunteer commitment will be based on the number of events your students are registered for, rather than the number of students. Your dedication as a volunteer is essential to ensuring that festival day runs smoothly and is a high-quality musical experience for everyone involved!
4. On the 2025 **GOLD CUP information form**, please list your potential candidate students in alphabetical order based on their LAST names. Then, send this form to Mary Jane Timmer at 3635 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534, **no later than November 11th.** This will help us ensure the accurate ordering of gold cups for your students.
5. Any necessary **makeup** will follow the same format as last year, which will be a virtual submission. The performance and music must be submitted a week before the festival, **with an additional fee of \$10 per event.** If your student needs to participate using the make-up option, please contact Jinah Lee at jinahpiano@gmail.com.
6. **Judges will assign a 'No rating'** to the following cases. Ensure that you follow the rules and adequately prepare your students to provide them with a successful experience.
 - Performing pieces different from those listed on the rating sheet. Students must perform the pieces that he/she is registered for.
 - Failure to provide music
 - Bringing a photocopy instead of the original copy. (For piano duet events, you must have two original copies: one copy for the judge and one copy for the students. In the exception of duet partners being siblings, the siblings may use a photocopy of the music with the judge receiving the original.
7. A warm-up room is available for woodwinds and string instruments only. **No warm-up room will be provided for piano events.**

8. **Theory event** – If the student turns 9 before the festival day, they must register for Theory Level 1. They are not qualified for levels A, B or C.

Here are a few tips when registering students through Vivace:

1. Vivace does not save a registration “draft” halfway through the process. Complete the entire registration (for one student) at one time.
2. Only list **participating** siblings. In past years we’ve had the issue of teachers listing siblings who are not performing in the festival.
3. If a parent is participating in the festival, list them in the sibling section. This will help us with scheduling.

Important dates and deadlines to mark on your calendar:

Nov. 11th, 2024 – GOLD CUP INFORMATION form due. Specify whether you have a student earning a 60 pt. or 75 pt. gold cup, as these require a special order. Mail to Mary Jane Timmer at 3635 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534.

Jan. 10th, 2025 – ONLINE REGISTRATION and VOLUNTEER FORM due.

Mar. 8th, 2025 - Federation Festival at GRCC

GOLD CUP RECITAL - To be determined

If you have any questions regarding the festival, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Esther Oosterhouse or Jinah Lee.

Thank you for your support and we wish you and your students a wonderful year ahead!

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