

RPTA Ensemble Festival Guidelines

The 38th Ensemble Festival will be **February 4-5, 2017**. The purpose of the festival is to give piano students an opportunity to perform in a duet, duo, trio, or quartet group, which creates an orchestral sound. Four concert grand pianos are provided by local piano stores to facilitate this event for the dress rehearsals and performances. Benefits to piano students who participate in the festival include sharpening musical skills such as rhythm, note reading, expressive playing, and technical skills. Students are permitted to use music for the performance. Parents and friends are invited to attend the Sunday performance. Teachers select the ensemble music for their own studios and may collaborate with other teachers to fill as many of the parts as possible.

Ensemble Selection Categories

A. Large Group Ensembles: Duet, Duo, Trio, Quartet

Number of performers: Duet = 4, 6, 8 Duo = 4 Trio = 6, 9, 12 Quartet = 4 or 8

Difficulty Level: Elementary, Intermediate, or Advanced

Time Limit: 5 Minutes

B. Duet or Duo Partners

Number of Performers: 2

Difficulty Level: Late Intermediate or Advanced

Time Limit: 5 Minutes

Note: This category will have a limit of 4 partner selections per program.

C. Teachers' Ensemble Group: Duet, Duo, Trio, Quartet

Number of Performers: 4, 6, 8, 9, 12

Difficulty Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Time Limit: 5 Minutes

Note: There cannot be more than 2 teacher groups per program.



Reminder: The primary goal of the Ensemble Festival is to form as many Large Ensemble groups as possible and to fill every playing spot on all four pianos.



Ensemble Definitions

Duet: 1 piano, 2 performers, Primo and Secondo

(×4 to fill 4 pianos)

Duo: 2 pianos, 2 performers, Piano 1 and Piano 2

(×2 to fill 4 pianos)

Trio: 1 piano, 3 performers, Parts 1, 2, 3 (*High, Middle, Low*)

(×4 to fill 4 pianos)

Quartet: 2 pianos, 4 performers, Piano Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 (×2 to fill 4 pianos)

4 pianos, 4 performers, Piano Parts 1, 2, 3, 4

General Guidelines

1. Every student should complete a minimum of two years of piano study before participating in the Festival.
2. Participants must be students of active members of RPTA who have renewed their membership by July 1 of the year prior to the Festival. New members of RPTA must have joined the association by October 1 of the year prior to the Festival.
3. Entry fees are \$15 per student. Teachers pay the fees with the registration. Students who are playing on two ensemble selections will only need to pay one fee of \$15.
4. Students may perform on one or two ensemble selections. In an effort to fill all parts on each selection, teachers should attempt to collaborate among two or more studios as needed.
5. Teachers determine the performance attire for each selection for the Festival. Simple props and costumes may be used to enhance the performance. If costumes and props are used, these should also be used at the dress rehearsal.

6. The Ensemble committee will provide the membership with student commitment letters to inform students and parents of their responsibilities in preparation for the Festival. Teachers should secure the signed commitment letters and fees from students prior to the entry deadline date.

7. Photo copies may not be used for the Festival performance.

Special permission must be obtained from the publisher if a piece is out of print.

If music is obtained from online sources, include the licensed usage permission with your entry forms.

In the case of difficult page turns, a page may be copied to be used with the original printed copy.

Page turns need to be worked out carefully at rehearsals prior to the dress rehearsal to avoid visual distractions and fumbling on stage.

Studio and Store Rehearsals

The Ensemble Committee will make arrangements with local piano stores for teachers to use for rehearsing with four pianos. Notification of the locations and times available will be given to the teachers in November and December.

Dress Rehearsal:

Students are required to attend their dress rehearsal and stay for the full 1½ hour time. Teachers will receive the specific time for each selection's rehearsal.

Teachers should attend the dress rehearsal and be available to assist with their students and other staging duties. Seating charts will be given to the teachers at dress rehearsals. It will make the dress rehearsal run smoothly if teachers organize students in the following seating order:

Student: #1	Primo	Piano 3 Front piano stage left
#2	Secondo	Piano 3 Front piano stage left
#3	Primo	Piano 4 Back piano stage left
#4	Secondo	Piano 4 Back piano stage left
#5	Secondo	Piano 1 Front piano stage right
#6	Primo	Piano 1 Front piano stage right
#7	Secondo	Piano 2 Back piano stage right
#8	Primo	Piano 2 Back piano stage right

When using less or more than eight performers, adjust accordingly, but always use front pianos.

- Have students enter the bench from their playing side of the keyboard, put their music on the music desk stand until all the ensemble is ready, then sit and prepare to play. Have a student appointed to count in the beats to begin to play.
- After finishing the piece, students stand together, exit from the bench the same way they entered, then walk to the front of the stage quickly, and stand together until the teacher in the front row gives the cue to bow. Group then exits stage left.

Festival Performance:

Students are expected to arrive and be seated 15 minutes before the performance time.

Students are required to remain for the entire performance.

Ensemble Music Selections

When selecting music for ensemble groups, careful consideration will need to be given to meter, key signature, and tempo changes. Please select only one piece for each ensemble group.

One helpful resource for teaching ensemble music is [The Piano Duet: A Learning Guide](#) by Weekly and Arganbright, Kjos Pub., WP381.

REGISTRATION FORM

ENTRY DEADLINE: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 by noon at the RPTA meeting.

Submit one form per composition entry. Make ONE CHECK payable to RPTA totaling all your entries.

Students who are playing on two ensemble selections will only need to pay one fee of \$15. *For double entries, place a check mark in the blank beside all students' names who will perform on two ensemble pieces.*

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!

Responsible Teacher _____ Phone _____

Cooperating Teachers _____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

- Pick a Category: (circle A, B, or C)
- A. Large Group Ensembles: check one:
 - Duet (4, 6, 8 performers)
 - Trio (6, 9, 12 performers)
 - B. Duet or Duo Partners
 - Quartet (4; one per piano)
 - C. Teachers' Ensemble Group: Duet, Duo, Trio, Quartet

Composition Title _____ Difficulty Level _____

Composer _____ Minutes _____

Performers' Names (as spelled for the program)	Double Entries	Part Performing
1 _____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____
3 _____	_____	_____
4 _____	_____	_____
5 _____	_____	_____
6 _____	_____	_____
7 _____	_____	_____
8 _____	_____	_____
9 _____	_____	_____
10 _____	_____	_____
11 _____	_____	_____
12 _____	_____	_____

Total Number of Students Entered: _____ @ \$15.00 = _____

Send all Registration Forms to Ensemble Festival Chairman by noon on Nov. 16, 2016: Maxine Salvatore
8200 Apple Orchard Way
Raleigh, NC 27615



Date _____

**The Raleigh Piano Teachers Association will hold the 38th Piano Ensemble Festival
February 4-5, 2017**

The purpose of the festival is to give piano students an opportunity to perform in a duet, duo, or trio group, which creates an orchestral-like sound. Students who participate also increase their own skills with counting, note reading, expressive playing, and technical skills. Students are allowed to use music for the performance. Parents and friends are invited to attend the Sunday performance.

Name _____ has been chosen to have the honor of participating in one of the selections in the **RPTA's 38th Piano Ensemble Festival, on Saturday and Sunday February 4-5, 2017.**

With this privilege there is responsibility. Each student who accepts this honor of performing in the Ensemble Festival must commit to the following:

- Pay the Ensemble Festival entry fee of \$15
- Attend the rehearsal(s) set up by your child's teacher (TBA)
- a 1½ hour **required dress rehearsal** on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at Meredith College, Jones Auditorium and the **performance** on Sunday, February 5, 2017_ at Meredith College, Jones Auditorium.

All students are required to attend the entire rehearsal and performance. There **cannot be any exceptions** to being present for the required rehearsal and performance, so please do not ask for any.

To acknowledge your acceptance of this honor for your child and the commitment that it requires, please sign below and return this form to your child's teacher at his/her next lesson.

___ I **WILL ATTEND** the rehearsals, dress rehearsal and the performance for the RPTA's Piano Ensemble Festival.

___ I will **NOT** be able to participate.

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____