

# Young Artists Auditions Guidelines 2017

**Purpose:** The Young Artist Auditions are to promote the performance of American piano music as well as choice piano pieces by non-American composers, and to award competition winners. The intent is to encourage all piano students below the college level to perform, to enjoy and create music, and to make music an important part of their lives as they continue to study piano.

**Date & Place: March 10-11, 2017 at Meredith College**

**Deadline: December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Meredith College 9:30-Noon**

*Packets must be received by December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 if mailed.*

## The 10 Commandments of Young Artists Auditions:

- I. Thou shalt not participate until thou hast read the ENTIRE YAA Guidelines.
- II. After reading the Guidelines, read ALL the contents of the registration packet available on the RPTA website at [www.raleighpianoteachers.org](http://www.raleighpianoteachers.org).
- III. To pay the RPTA registration fee rate, new members and student members of RPTA must have paid their dues prior to October 1, 2016. RENEWING RPTA members must have paid by July 1, 2016 or their students will pay the NCMTA registration fee.
- IV. NCMTA members and non-member teachers may enter students.  
Please note that the registration fees are different than for RPTA members.
- V. All students must participate on March 10-11, 2017 at the actual time of the festival  
In order to receive rating sheets, certificates or awards: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-9 PM: YA I & II, Royalty Divisions, and All Concerto Levels. March 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-5 PM: all other levels.
- VI. Each student may enter only one performance level.
- VII. In choosing repertoire, respect the time limits assigned to each level. The American piece must be performed 1<sup>st</sup> to make sure that it can be played in its entirety.
- VIII. If a student places 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or Honorable Mention, they may not enter a lower level any year thereafter and they must be available to play on the Honors Recitals.
- IX. Every teacher will be assigned at least one volunteer assignment. The amount of volunteer time required is based on the number of students entered. (See *Additional Information Teacher's Responsibility* at the end of this document.) Do not schedule anything on your calendar for this weekend until notified of your responsibilities.
- X. Audition times assigned to students are final. NO REQUESTS to switch with another Student or change times will be considered.

## Other Instructions for YAA:

- If after reading the Guidelines and the Registration Forms, you are unclear about any of the rules or regulations, please contact the YAA director for further explanation before filling out or submitting any forms.
- ALL RPTA Members who enter students into YAA are required to fulfill the work requirement outlined in the Teacher Responsibilities section. RPTA Members are not allowed to pay the Non-Member Teacher Registration Fee in lieu of fulfilling their work requirement.
- Every RPTA Member entering students will be assigned at least one job. **If you are not able to work the weekend of the YAA Festival, please contact the YAA Director before entering students. Teachers who do not fulfill their work requirements will not receive their student grade sheets until a comparable amount of service hours to RPTA have been fulfilled.**
- All students wishing to participate in YAA must be entered by a piano teacher. Piano teachers may only enter students who are currently enrolled in their studios and attending regular lessons during the current academic year.
- Students can only be entered in one performance level.
- If a student places 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or Honorable Mention, they may not enter a lower level any year thereafter.
- American pieces from the repertoire list are performed first so that the American piece is sure to be performed in its entirety. If the non-American piece exceeds the time limit, the judge may stop the performance before the student has finished playing. Please inform your students so that they are aware that this may happen and are not upset.
- Student entry fees and Teacher Registration fees are non-refundable.

## Audition Divisions:

- I. **Standard Division.** (refer to the appropriate registration form for entrance fee)
  - A. Elementary I
    - Students perform from memory two contrasting pieces from first or second year method books or early to mid-elementary sheet music of at least 16 measures. (tip: the “performance” or “Recital” book of various methods are good examples)
    - You may choose not to put Elementary I titles of pieces on the Application Form. If you do not list your titles, the judge will add them to the grade sheet the day of the audition.
    - Simplified arrangements and transcriptions are permissible for Elementary I selections.
  - B. Standard Solo Levels: Elementary II, Intermediate I & II, Senior I & II, Young Artist I & II
    - Students perform from memory one American selection from the YAA Repertoire List and one non-American piece of comparable level in difficulty of their choice. The pieces should be of contrasting style. (See “Guidelines for Non-American Selections” at the end of the Repertoire List for help in choosing music of appropriate levels.) Students may play in the same level for up to four years.
    - American pieces from the YAA Repertoire List are performed first. If their non-American selection exceeds their allotted audition length, the judge may stop the performance before the student finishes.

- Simplified arrangements are not permitted in any of these categories.
- Transcriptions that are part of the standard piano repertoire are permissible for non-American selections.

C. Standard Concerto Levels: I, II, III, IV & V

- Students perform from memory, with accompaniment, a selection from the appropriate level of concerto section of the YAA Repertoire List.

II. **Honors Division:** (refer to the appropriate registration form for entrance fee)

- All Honors levels are competitive, therefore grading is numerical (See “Additional Information, II. Adjudication”)
- A student may compete in each honors level up to four years but may win the first prize only once, except Intermediate I Honors and Young Artist II Honors (\*see below)
- A student must earn a Superior rating to be considered for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or Honorable Mention. This is also true for those competing for trophies in Intermediate I Honors. (note: a student could score a significantly high Superior rating and still not place.)

A. **Honors Solo Levels: Intermediate I & II, Senior I & II, and Young Artist I & II**

- Students perform from memory one American selection from the YAA Repertoire List and **one** non-American piece of comparable level of difficulty of their choice. The pieces should be of contrasting style. (See “Guidelines for non-American selections” at the end of the YAA Repertoire List for help choosing music of appropriate levels.)
- American pieces from the repertoire list are performed first. If their non-American selection exceeds their allotted audition length, the student will be stopped before finishing their performance.
- Simplified arrangements are not permitted in any of these categories.
- Transcriptions that are part of the standard piano repertoire are permissible for non-American pieces.
- **First place winners are expected to perform at the Honors Recital.** Second, Third and Honorable Mentions winners are expected to attend the Honors Recital to receive their awards. All winners will be recognized and presented with awards immediately following the recital.
- **Intermediate I Honors:**  
Four students from each Intermediate I Group will be chosen to perform at the Honors Recital and will receive trophies immediately following the recital.  
A student may win intermediate I Honors twice. (Note: there is no 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or Honorable Mention in Intermediate I Honors.)

- **Young Artist II:** A student entering YAll may win 1<sup>st</sup> place twice.

**B. Honors Concerto Levels I, II, III, IV, V**

- Students perform from memory, with accompaniment, a selection from the appropriate level of the concerto section of the repertoire list.
- **First Place winners are expected to perform at the Concerto Honors Recital.** Second, Third and Honorable Mentions winners are expected to attend the Honors Recital to receive their awards. All winners will be recognized and presented with awards immediately following the Concerto Honors Recital.

**C. Royalty Levels: Prince, Princess, King, Queen**

- Students perform from memory one solo piece of their choice.
- When choosing a solo, students are permitted to choose from the Repertoire List (*See below*).
- **First Place winners are expected to perform at the Honors Recital.**
- Second, Third and Honorable Mentions winners are expected to attend the Honors Recital to receive their awards. All winners will be recognized and presented with awards immediately following the Concerto Honors Recital.

**Prince & Princess:**

- Students up through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of the audition are eligible for these levels.
- Audition piece is to be from or comparable to Senior I or above.

**King & Queen:**

- Students eligible for these levels are in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grades at the time of the audition.
- Audition piece is to be from or comparable to Young Artist I or above.

**III. Composition Division** (*See appropriate registration form for entrance fee*)

- **IMPORTANT NOTE: LEVELS ARE NO LONGER DIVIDED BY GRADE IN SCHOOL.**
- Students may submit unlimited compositions for piano, using a separate form, recording and envelope for each composition entered.
- There is a performance time limit on all levels of composition entries.

**A. Levels: Elementary, Intermediate, Senior, Young Artist**

The student level of performance skill need not be the same as their composition level. Use the following basic guidelines to determine which level the student should enter.

**Elementary: Three minutes maximum.** The student demonstrates correct use of any of the

following: 5-finger melodies and patterns, simple harmonies, harmonic intervals of 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, and simple variations of the V7chord. They may also use accidentals (flat, sharp, natural), simple meters and rhythms including eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, dotted half notes, and whole notes with corresponding rests. Other musical notation may include ties, dynamic markings, crescendo/diminuendo signs, repeat signs, and D.C. al Fine, slurs and phrase marks, staccato, fermata, accent marks, and notation of pedal for pedal usage.

**Intermediate: Six minutes maximum.** In addition to the above, the student correctly applies the following elements: major or harmonic minor scales, correct use and identification of key signatures with up to 3 sharps or flats, extended melody, no expanse greater than 5-finger position, chord progressions in major and minor keys (I-IV-V or V7) or (i-iv-V or V7-i), ledger line notes, arpeggios, dynamic marks (pp, ff), tempo markings such as vivace, lento, etc., terms: molto, poco, ritardando, etc., legato (“harmonic”) pedaling.

**Senior: Eight minutes maximum.** In addition to the above, the student applies—minor scale, incorporating the three forms (natural, harmonic, melodic), correct use and identification of key signatures with possible modulations, accidentals (double sharps/flats), chromatic scales, augmented and diminished triads, extended harmonies such as 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> chords, dotted eighth-sixteenth note rhythm, sixteenth and thirty-second notes with corresponding rests, grace notes, trills and other ornamentations and figures.

**Young Artist: Ten minutes.** Student applies same elements as Senior, and possibly includes more complex harmonies, complex rhythms, unusual meters or combinations of meter, modes, etc.

#### **B. Composition Entries:**

1. Each composition must be a minimum of 16 measures AND performance time must respect the time limit noted under “Additional information: Audition Time Limits”.
2. Each composition entry will be submitted in an 8 1/2X11 inch envelope with the following items: 1. Score (handwritten or computer generated), 2. CD or thumb-drive labeled with name of composer, title of the composition, level of composer, name of performer if different than composer, 3. a brief statement from the composer describing their compositional process, and 4. a copy of the YAA Application Form.

#### **C. Teacher Instructions:**

1. The teacher should help guide the student in the compositional process, and teach proper notation.
2. The teacher should bundle all entries and attach: 1. Two copies of the Composition Participation Form. 2. Composition Fees are listed on the appropriate YAA Financial Form. 3. Write one check totaling all Participation, Composition, and Registration fees made payable to RPTA.

3. Entries are due with your YAA Packet on December 14, 2017.
4. Composition results will be returned with your Grade Sheet Packets at the conclusion of the YAA Festival.

**D. Ratings:**

1. A student entering this category receives written or taped comments, a rating from the judge, and competes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their level.
2. A student may only win 1<sup>st</sup> place in Intermediate, Senior or Young Artist once. A student may win 1<sup>st</sup> place in Elementary twice.
3. First place winners will perform or have their pieces performed by a student performer on the Honors Recital. Second, Third and Honorable Mentions winners are expected to attend the Honors Recital to receive their awards. All winners will be recognized and awarded at the end of the recital.

**HONORS RECITALS:**

**The Concerto Honors Recital will be held at 7:00 PM on Friday March 17, 2017 in the recital hall at Ruggero Piano, 4720 Hargrove Road, Raleigh NC 27616.**

**The Honors Recitals will be held on Sunday March 19, 2017 at 2:00 and 3:45 in Carswell Recital Hall at Meredith College in Raleigh. Students will be assigned a recital in which they will perform or attend.**

**Additional Information:**

**I. Audition Time Limits:**

**There is a time limit set for all auditions based on the time allotted for each level. If a student plays beyond these times, the judge can and will call time. Therefore, teachers should not select pieces which exceed these pre-determined times. The time allotted for each audition level is as follow:**

**3 minutes—Elementary Composition**

**4 minutes—Elementary I & II; Concerto I**

**6 minutes—Intermediate I & II, Concerto II, Prince; Princess; Intermediate Composition**

**8 minutes—Senior I & II; Queen; King; Concerto III; Senior Composition**

**10 minutes—Young Artist I & II; Young Artist Composition**

**13 inutes—Concerto IV; Concerto V**

**II. Adjudication**

**Superior (93-100\*\*) Given for outstanding performance with accurate memorization, adherence to details of score, technical skill, imaginative and stylistic interpretation.**

- Excellent (85-92)** Given for general attention to details of the score, proficient memorization, appropriate style, continuity of performance, rhythmic and technical control.
- Very Good (78-84)** Given for recognition of student's effort, but with inaccuracies in phrasing, tempo, rhythm, style, and/or memorization.
- Comments Only** Given for a performance that doesn't meet any of the above requirements, such as students who bring no music, or bring music for a piece other than the one on the entry form.

**No photocopied music which is under current copyright or from a copyrighted collection is allowed for use at the auditions, which includes use for the judge or the accompanist.**

**Students must play the selections their teacher listed on the Student Participation Form. If there is a discrepancy, the student may only play for comments and may not receive a rating or participate in the Honors Division.**

**(\*\* Only Honors Entries receive a numerical grade.)**

### III. Honors and Donations

Awards and monetary gifts are made available through donations from individuals, teachers, businesses, and entrance fees. The awards may vary according to funds available. In addition, a donation is made to Meredith College for the generous loan of their facilities.

### IV. Teachers' Responsibilities

1. **RPTA members** with students entered in YAA are **REQUIRED** to participate in the work for this event. Please do not schedule anything on your calendar for YAA weekend until you are notified of your responsibilities.
2. **RPTA members** with students entered in YAA who fail to fulfill their work requirement will not receive their student grade sheets until a comparable amount of service to RPTA has been fulfilled.
3. **RPTA members** with students entered will be assigned jobs based on the number of students they enter in YAA. Job assignments are based on the following scale:
  - 1-9 students** entered will be assigned 1 job.
  - 10-19 students** entered will be assigned 2 jobs.
  - 20-29 students** entered will be assigned 3 jobs.
  - 30 or more students** entered will be assigned 4 jobs.
4. Each job assignment is about 4.5 hours.
5. Jobs assignments may not be reduced if students withdraw.
6. **NON RPTA Members entering students in YAA** will be charged a Teacher Registration Fee based on the following formula in lieu of fulfilling a work requirement:

- 1-9 students entered are charged \$45
  - 10-19 students entered are charged \$90
  - 20-29 students entered are charged \$135
  - 30 or more students entered are charged \$180
7. **Non RPTA Members entering students are not allowed to work at YAA in lieu of paying the Teacher Registration Fee.**
  8. **RPTA members are not allowed to pay the Non-RPTA Member Teacher Registration Fee in lieu of fulfilling their work requirement.**
  9. **Non RPTA Member Teacher Registration Fees are based on the number of students entered in the YAA Festival. The Teacher Registration fee is not reduced if students entered withdraw from YAA prior to the Festival.**
  10. **RPTA Members** may submit job preferences to the YAA Director who will attempt to schedule your jobs around your requests to the best of their ability.
  11. It is the teacher's responsibility to carefully check their forms and participation sheets for errors prior to submitting their packet. No changes in levels, divisions or literature choices may be made after the registration deadline.
  12. It is inappropriate for teacher or parents to make contact with a judge before or after the audition. If there is a question about a comment or grade given, the teacher may contact the YAA Chair in writing and YAA Chair will decide if further clarification from the judge is required.

**V. Judges**

Anyone agreeing to be a judge for the YAA Event is prohibited from entering students in the YAA Event that year.



