



MMTA BAY STATE STRINGS CONTEST RULES

Established in 1968, the MMTA Bay State Strings Contest is an annual statewide contest for all strings students age 6 through age 18. The contest gives motivated and hard-working students of Massachusetts the opportunity to perform at a high level, receive written evaluations from judges, and compete for awards.

PLEASE READ THE RULES CAREFULLY

WHEN: June 8, 2024

WHERE: Walnut Hill School for the Arts
12 Highland Street, Natick, MA 01760

ELIGIBILITY

1. The event is open to all students of current MMTA members (except Collegiate Members).
2. We highly encourage non-member teachers to become MMTA members signing up for membership at mtna.org.
3. MMTA/MTNA membership must have been completed by **March 31, 2024**. Otherwise, a one-time **\$100.00 non-member fee applies**.
4. This event is for strings students age 6-18 only: violin, viola, cello, and contrabass
5. In order to register students in “non-member” status please contact the Bay State Strings Contest Committee via baystatestrings@mmta.net
6. Contestants must have been a Massachusetts resident for six months or more prior to the contest. Current residential address is required for registration.
7. Contestants must have studied with the teacher for a minimum of six months preceding the contest.

REGISTRATION & DEADLINES

1. Registrations will be accepted **ONLINE only**. Please, visit www.mmta.net
2. Registration OPENS: **April 3, 2024**
3. Registration DEADLINE: **May 6, 2024**. No registrations will be accepted after the deadline.
4. Teachers may request changes to their registration until the registration deadline. To request a change, please contact the Bay State Strings Contest Committee via baystatestrings@mmta.net
5. No changes will be made after the deadline **May 6, 2024**.
6. It is the teacher’s responsibility to read and accept the 2024 Bay State Strings Contest rules before beginning the online application. **ONLY teachers can register students** for the Bay State Strings Contest. Registration entries completed by parents may result in disqualification.



FEES

1. The contestant fees are:
 - Ages 6 - 10 = \$60 per student
 - Ages 11 - 14 = \$70 per student
 - Ages 15 - 18 = \$75 per student
2. Non-member teachers may register students and include a \$100 one time non-member fee along with student fees.
3. Fees are non-refundable, except when the entry is rejected by the Bay State Strings Contest Committee via baystatestrings@mmta.net

AGE DIVISIONS

1. Contestants will be assigned to a division based on their age as of **April 1, 2024**.
 - Parents & Teachers must ensure that the contestant’s age is entered correctly during registration.
 - Winners may be asked for proof of age.
 - **Any age discrepancies will result in the disqualification of the contestant, and both the contestant and their teacher will be ineligible to participate in the Bay State Contest for 1 year.**
2. Age Division requirements are:

DIVISION	AGE	TIME LIMIT	REPERTOIRE
1	15-18 years	15 min	MUST perform contrasting pieces, <i>from at least 2 periods</i>
2	11-14 years	10 min	MUST perform contrasting pieces, <i>from at least 2 periods</i>
3	6-10 years	8 min	MUST perform contrasting pieces, <i>from at least 2 periods</i> 6-8 years <i>only</i> : MUST perform 2 contrasting pieces

3. Divisions with less than three contestants will be grouped together for judging.
4. Divisions with more than 13 contestants will be split into smaller subdivisions for judging.



REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

1. Check the Age Division chart above for time limits and repertoire.
2. Repertoire may be chosen from the following period classifications:
 - Baroque
 - Classical (including Beethoven)
 - Romantic (up to 1900)
 - Impressionist or Contemporary
3. Contestants cannot repeat a composition with which they won first, second or third prize in any other MMTA contest or competition.
4. All music must be performed from memory.
5. No repeats are to be taken.
6. Transcriptions and paraphrases that are recognized as part of the standard solo canon are acceptable.
7. No arrangements or simplifications will be permitted.
8. All accompanied repertoire must be performed with a pianist.
9. For accompanied performances, contestants may arrange for their own accompanist, or select to play with the competition accompanist. The competition accompanist can be requested during registration, and payment arrangements are made individually with the accompanist.
10. Teachers should make every effort to ensure that the contestant's repertoire fits into the time limit for their division.
11. Time limits will be strictly observed. Performances which go beyond the time limit will be stopped by the judges once the time limit has been reached.

SCHEDULING CONTESTANTS

1. Following the registration deadline, contestants will receive a division time assignment.
2. Contestants must be available for any time between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on the event day.
 - The Contest Committee cannot guarantee a specific judging time.
 - No special scheduling accommodations will be made. No exceptions.
 - Do not enter a student who has to be elsewhere that day.
3. Performance times within each division will be determined by random drawing.
4. On the day of the contest students must arrive 30 minutes before their assigned time to check in.
5. Failure to appear at the appointed time will result in disqualification



JUDGING & EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Each Division (or sub-division) will have three judges. They will work together to evaluate the contestants and determine the awards for each division.
2. During the competition, contestants will remain anonymous to the judges (identified only by number), until after awards are determined.
3. Contestants in all Divisions will be evaluated on the following: Interpretation (as written in the submitted musical score), Tone, Tempo, Dynamics, Phrasing, Technique, Memorization, and Stage Presence.
4. Judges shall always have absolute privacy. No one may speak to them under any circumstances or conditions, except members of the supervisory committee and monitors.
 - Contestants, their teachers, parents or friends who violate this rule will cause immediate disqualification of the contestant.
 - Questions or concerns during the Contest should be brought directly to the monitor, or a member of the supervisory committee, but NOT the judges.
- 5. DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.**

AWARDS

1. Every contestant will receive a Certificate of Participation, plus written comments from the judges on the day of the contest.
2. First, Second, and Third place awards will be assigned for each division at the discretion of the judges. Honorable Mention awards may also be given, at the judges' discretion. In the case of ties, duplicate awards will be given.
3. If, in their opinion, the judges agree that no contestant has performed at the level to receive an award, they may choose not to present those awards.
4. Winner's names will be posted on mmta.net.

ON THE DAY OF THE CONTEST

1. Students must arrive 30 minutes before their assigned time to check in.
2. Students must bring an original score of the edition they are playing, along with two photocopies for judging. Printouts legally downloaded online are allowed.
 - The score must be free of the teacher's comments.
 - Bowings and fingering adjustments markings are allowed to be marked in a score.
 - Measure numbers must be indicated.
 - Music must be presented at the check-in for approval.