



Youth Instrumental Music Contest Rules and Regulations for 2024

This year's District Music Competition will be held at the Annual Rotary District 5190 Conference, at 1:00 pm Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the Grand Sierra Resort, in Reno, NV. Contestants are requested to check in from 12:45 until 1:30 pm

First Prize will be \$1,000.00, Second Prize \$750, & Third Prize \$500.

Eligibility Rules

- Be a high school student (grades 9-12) or a home-schooled/non-traditionally schooled student, ages 14 to 18, located in District 5190 with a love for music.
- Have a reasonable ability to play a musical instrument.
- Be sponsored by a District 5190 Rotary Club.
- Be able to commit, if Club winner, to attend and compete in the Area contest. If winner of Area contest, be able to commit to attend and compete at District Conference at time 1:00 pm Saturday, May 18, 2024, in Reno, NV.
- STUDENTS MAY ONLY COMPETE IN ONE CLUB CONTEST EACH YEAR!**
- THIS IS A SOLO/INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION:** Contestant will be responsible for an accompaniment, if needed, but only their individual performance will be graded.

Rules for contests

- Each student may play any musical instrument, and that solo/individual instrument must be the main focus of the piece played, with any accompaniment not overshadowing.
- Each student will be responsible for his/her own accompanists for all three levels of competitions. Student is also responsible for any sound equipment necessary. Microphones will be available for the contestant.
- A contestant may play any musical selection he/she desires.
- Contestants must supply 4 copies of their music to the judges at the district level competition.
- Each contestant's performance will be limited to 3 minutes minimum to 8 minutes maximum.



Judging Criteria: 100 Possible Points

Musical Ability:

- Poor/average/good/excellent technical command of the instrument
- Does the audience hold its breath, not worry, or is it enthralled with the performer's technical ability?**
 - 20 point maximum

Musical Sound:

- Jarring/Uninspired/Pleasant/Dreamy sound
- Little variation in tempo and volume demonstrated/ Some nuance in tempo and volume/Very nuanced
- Are you inspired to hear less or more from this musician?**
 - 20 point maximum

Stage Presence, including introduction, performance, and stage departure

- Makes no audience contact/Dutiful presence/ Confident command
- Rattled by mistakes/Maintains poise even during a mistake
- Does a "performer personality" come through, even if musicianship doesn't?**
 - 20 point maximum

Musical Selection:

- Piece obviously too easy or too difficult/Piece consistent with performer's abilities
- Too many mistakes or sloppiness/Appropriate demonstration of abilities
- In choice of piece, does the performer appropriately showcase his/her musical experience?**
 - 20 point maximum

Musical Empathy

- Technical performance only/Moderate indication of a connection with music/Obvious connection between performer and music
- Does the performer "get into" the piece, and thereby connect with the audience?**
 - 20 point maximum

Mandated Three Minute Minimum/Eight Minute Maximum Penalty

A five (5) point deduction from the total possible 100 points is required for each 15 seconds (or part of 15 seconds) the contestant is under three minutes or over eight minutes. The timer will keep track of time and notify the teller of any penalties to be subtracted before the final judgments are made. **No contestant will be disqualified for a short or long performance, but points subtracted may severely reduce a total score.**



Teller Instructions/Contest Results Tabulation

- Each judge uses his point designations to choose his first, second, and third place winners. (For example Judge A may have a total of 50 points for his/her 1st place performer, 48 points for 2nd and so on. Judge B may have 100 points for his/her 1st place performer, 75 for 2nd and so on. ***Therefore, total points will not decide the overall winner(s); rather, the placement of each judge will determine the overall winner(s) See Teller Instructions.***
- We suggest contests have three primary judges and a fourth to be used as a tie-breaker. In the event this does not provide a clear-cut winner, the judges will look at their scoring points and make a final judgment.
- It is preferred to judge three places. However, in the event the judges cannot break a tie, they have the prerogative to split the prize money between the two contestants.
- All decisions by the judges are final and cannot be appealed.
- Contestants should not be shown their score sheets or total score.