

Dean & Carolyn Elder Piano Competition

Teachers' General Information and Guidelines 2027

CHAIRPERSONS: Michele Cohen – brazilianpianist@hotmail.com – (480) 213-6553
Brandon Seil – suzukipianoofscottsdale@gmail.com – (480) 227-7706

PURPOSE: To give students an opportunity to perform solo repertoire in a recital setting and to be adjudicated.

DATE: Competition – **Saturday, April 17, 2027 (date tentative, to be confirmed early 2027)**
Winners' Recital – **Sunday, April 18, 2027**

LOCATION: Steinway & Sons Scottsdale, 14418 N Scottsdale Rd Suite 184, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

ELIGIBILITY:

Teachers and students must abide by the Guidelines for the Dean & Carolyn Elder Piano Competition and the 2026-2027 PMTA Student Events Overview and Agreement form (see PMTA yearbook). Non-compliance will result in disqualification. Registered students must have studied with the current teacher at least three (3) months prior to the event. Teachers may enter any number of students. Chairpersons may enter students.

NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE: \$40

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 27, 2027

You may register online ([Elder Competition Online Registration](#)); or by emailing the registration form to the co-chairs (making payment with PayPal).

DIVISIONS: A contestant's division is determined by age on the day of competition, not school grade. Senior High contestants must still be in high school; college students may not register.

Age Range	Division	Level	Repertoire	Time (minutes) Min.	Time (minutes) Max.
8 & under	Elementary 1	Non-method book; min. 16 measures	Two contrasting solos	1	6
9-10	Elementary 2	Minimum ASP 3	Two contrasting solos	2	10
11-12	Intermediate 1	Minimum ASP 4	Two contrasting solos	3	10
13-14	Intermediate 2	Minimum ASP 5	Two contrasting solos	4	12
15-16	Advanced 1	Minimum ASP 7	Two contrasting solos	5	16
17-18	Advanced 2	Minimum ASP 8	Two contrasting solos	5	16

REPERTOIRE:

Requirement includes two memorized pieces with contrasting styles from any period or era. If a student received a Gold Medal in the Fall Piano Festival, the student may use one piece of the same repertoire for the Dean & Carolyn Elder Piano Competition. Repertoire cannot be changed after registration. Be aware that performances that go over the division time limit will be cut off. Each movement of a sonatina or sonata is considered one solo. WTC preludes and fugues by J.S. Bach must be considered as one piece (they cannot be played separately). For variations, the entire set of variations is considered one piece (no cuts). Only original compositions by composers of renown are acceptable. Contemporary American composers such as Alexander or Rollin are acceptable for each division. Simplified versions are not acceptable.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ♦ All participating teachers must abide by the PMTA Student Events Overview and Agreement included in the 2026-2027 PMTA yearbook. Failure to meet this requirement will make the student ineligible to participate and to receive any recognition or awards. If you do not have a PMTA yearbook, please contact the event chairpersons for a copy of the PMTA Student Events Overview and Agreement.
- ♦ Teachers should take time to review the current Guidelines and to go over "Student Responsibilities" (see next page) and the 2026-2027 PMTA Student Events Overview and Agreement form with the participating students and their parents.
- ♦ Review the Registration Form with each student.
- ♦ To avoid disqualification, teachers should not identify themselves or their students to the judges at any time.
- ♦ **Teachers must be available to assist during the competition days.** Teachers who are unable to assist are responsible for finding a suitable replacement; failure to do so will result in student disqualification or non-participation. An Elder Competition committee member will contact teachers regarding their volunteer times and duties.

Student Guidelines and Registration 2027

- ♦ Fill out and sign this Registration Form and return it to your teacher.
- ♦ Completely master, both technically and musically, your performance. All solo music must be memorized.
- ♦ All entrants must abide by the Federal Copyright Law. Photocopies are not allowed; however, CD Sheet Music is allowed. Please bring receipt of purchase with you to the competition.
- ♦ The name of the teacher or student must not be found on the music or disclosed at any time.
- ♦ Bring music to the adjudication. Music should be clipped or marked, with measures numbered.
- ♦ Pictures and video of the event may be used by PMTA on their website or in presentations. No individual names or personal information will be given.

- ♦ Students receiving ratings of “Superior with Distinction” or “Superior” are highly encouraged, though not required, to perform in the Winners’ Recital.

- ◆ The judges' decisions are final.
- ◆ All contestants will receive certificates of participation immediately following their performance. Students awarded "Superior with Distinction" or "Superior" will receive cash awards. Students awarded "Honorable Mention" may receive cash awards, upon availability.
- ◆ The judges will confer the **Heather and Justin Smith Award** upon the **Junior High** or **Senior High** contestant whom they decide has given the best overall performance at Saturday's competition. This award has a value of \$200.
- ◆ A **Winners' Recital and Awards Ceremony** will be held the day following the competition.
- ◆ Critique sheets and cash awards will be available from the chairpersons within two weeks.

_____ Date _____

Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

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(Online registrants need not fill out this form.)

Solo #2	Title, Key, Opus No.	Composer	Time
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**on April 17, 2027*