



2023 Piano Student Showcase Information and Guidelines

Important dates:

- September 25, 2023: Due date for applications, fees and student bios
- October 7, 2023: Auditions 10 am – 5 pm, Whitmore Recital Hall, Fine Arts Bldg, 505 Hitt Street, Columbia, MO 65201
- October 17: **New in 2023: Piano Student Showcase Exhibition.** 6:00 pm; and if a second performance is needed, October 19, 6:00 pm. [See box below and page 4 for details.]
- October 29, 2023: Piano Student Showcase Dress Rehearsal and Performance, Missouri Theatre

If there are any changes to the Information and Guidelines, emails will be sent to music teachers and the updates will be posted on <https://themosy.org/piano-showcase>

The Piano Showcase provides Mid-Missouri's young pianists with distinguished audition and performance opportunities to publicly showcase their musical achievement. This will be achieved by bringing the best of their performance talent to the stage of the Missouri Theatre.

The Piano Student Showcase is for mid-Missouri students (kindergarten through 12th grade). Mid-Missouri is defined as District IV (Central) of MMTA and includes the following counties: Audrain, Benton, Boone, Callaway, Camden, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Gasconade, Howard, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Osage, Pettis, Phelps, Ralls, Randolph, and Saline.

The League strives to provide a competitive, but low-key competition for piano students (K through 12th grade) to audition on a grand piano for the chance to perform in the beautiful Missouri Theatre. Please encourage your students at all levels who enjoy playing their best to audition for this privilege.

New performance in 2023 – To provide performance opportunities for ALL students auditioning, the Missouri Symphony League has added the Piano Showcase Exhibition to the schedule this year. All students who audition may perform the same piece on the grand piano at Lenoir Woods Senior Living on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00 pm. If more students opt to perform at Lenoir than can be accommodated in one evening, there will be a second performance on Thursday, October 19th at 6:00 pm. The Exhibition will be open to Lenoir residents, students and their families, and teachers.

TEACHERS, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the members of the Missouri Symphony League Piano Student Showcase Planning Committee:

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Thank you so much for your support of the 2023 Piano Student Showcase!

SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION TO AUDITION

Audition forms, student bios and fees DUE on September 25th. Audition fees - \$25 per student

Teachers complete the Student Applications forms, the bios and the payments online

<https://themosy.org/piano-showcase/> . The online forms will be available by August 1, 2023.

The on-line Student Audition Registration Form will request the following information for each student auditioning: [direct link to the Registration form is <https://forms.gle/KjRVdsAgqwLPNE2y8>]

- Teacher's name
- Teacher's email address
- Student's name
- Student's age as of October 7th
- Student's grade as of October 7th
- Parent Name
- Parent or student's (if older) email address
- Title of the composition
- Composer of the composition
- Length of the composition in minutes and seconds
- Will the student be performing at the Exhibition on October 17th or 19th?

The Student Bio Form: The teacher or parent must complete the Bio Form online. This is the link direct to the Bio Form <https://forms.gle/3eAKcowip4STovTH7>. The word limit for the bios is a maximum of 650 characters and the form will limit the bio to that length. The purpose of the bio is to provide a very brief introduction of the student to the Showcase audience. The bio must include the child's name, grade in school or age, teacher's name. The bio MAY include anecdotal and information on SOME, NOT ALL, of the following topics –stay within the word limit of 100 words or 650 characters:

- how long the student studied piano.
- why the student began piano.
- most significant piano activities and awards (recitals, auditions, competitions, etc.).
- other musical activities and/or groups.
- other school activities.
- Hobbies.
- favorite composer or period of music.

Audition fee: The teacher or parent must pay the \$25 audition fee online <https://missourisymphony-bloom.kindful.com/e/2023-piano-showcase-registration> no later than September 25, 2023. This form can also be found on <https://themosy.org/piano-showcase/> by selecting the "To register and pay fees" link.

Composition requirements – please make sure all applications follow these provisions:

1. All auditions and performances must be from **memory**.
2. **No composition shall exceed 7 minutes of music.**
3. Each student will perform **one composition**. If the student has already performed a piece in a prior Piano Student Showcase, please do not audition with the same composition.
4. Multiple students may audition with the same composition and **multiple students may be selected to play the same composition in the Performance**. When the audition list is provided to the teachers, any teacher seeing their student has the same composition as another student may ask for the composition to be changed for their student (this is just an option and if it causes stress for the student to change, please allow them to proceed with the original selected composition).
5. Please **do not observe repeat signs unless** the composition is about one minute. Repeats for 1st and 2nd endings may be observed.
6. Duets will not be permitted.

AUDITION PROVISIONS

1. The teachers will be given a schedule of auditions on Thursday, September 28th.
2. The students will be assigned by age group (based on age as of October 7, 2023) for their auditions. The age range for each audition group will be determined when applications are received. The goal is to have a similar number of students auditioning in each age group.
3. All students who audition will be awarded a personalized certificate verifying their participation.
4. **Arriving for the auditions**
 - a. The location for the auditions will be **Whitmore Recital Hall, University of Missouri, Fine Arts Bldg, #135, 505 Hitt Street, Columbia, MO 65201**. Parking is located on the street or in the Hitt Street Parking Structure, 9 Hitt Street, Columbia MO.
 - b. Each student will be assigned a specific audition time and they will be expected to **arrive 15 minutes early**.
 - c. The students must be on time with their music in hand or the audition cannot proceed.
 - d. Performance attire is recommended at the auditions. Please, no jeans, tee shirts, sweatpants or sneakers.
 - e. Students will submit their music when they check in for the audition; they should number the measures of their music and cover any identifying names of students or teachers. The music will be returned shortly after their audition along with their Certificate of Participation.
 - f. Parents and persons in the audience must be respectful to all performers – no talking, please silence all cell phones.
 - g. If the student uses a **pedal extender, the parent or teacher** must proceed to the stage when the student does and place the pedal extender. The parent or teacher is then responsible for removing the pedal extender immediately after the student's audition is finished.
5. **Instructions for students auditioning – Teachers, please practice these instructions with your students before the auditions:**
 - a. When the student auditioning before you leaves the stage, please proceed to the stage. A volunteer will call your number.
 - b. You may warm up on the piano by playing scales.
 - c. When you are ready to perform, **look at the judges until they give you the sign to begin**.
 - d. Perform your composition.
 - e. Bow to the judges and leave the stage.
 - f. Return to the audience.
 - g. Parent or teacher should promptly remove the pedal extender.
6. The student will be free to leave the auditions as soon as their certificate of participation and music are provided to them.
7. Judges and evaluations
 - a. Two judges, highly regarded piano instructors from outside the Central Missouri area, will determine the students who will be playing in the 2023 Piano Student Showcase Performance.
 - b. The judges will select students from each age group proportionate to the number auditioning from that age group.
 - c. Judges are not provided any student names, personal information (except age) or piano teacher names for the students auditioning. The judge's evaluation is totally independent based on students who perform to the highest standards within the student's age group.
 - d. By 6:00 pm, Sunday, October 8, 2023, the teachers will receive an email listing their students who were selected for the Piano Student Showcase Performance. The teachers will be responsible for letting each student know the outcome of the audition.
 - e. Rating sheets including the judges' comments will be e-mailed or delivered to the teachers by Tuesday, October 10th, 2023. Teachers will review the rating sheets with the students.

PIANO SHOWCASE EXHIBITION – NEW FOR 2023

1. To meet our mission of providing distinguished audition and performance opportunities, the Missouri Symphony League has added a new performance opportunity for **all students** who audition on October 7th regardless of selection for the Showcase in the Missouri Theatre. The Piano Showcase Exhibition will be held at Lenoir Woods Senior Living, Nifong Hall, Community Center 1, corner of Hourigan Circle and Miller Street, Columbia MO 65201. Lenoir residents enjoy performances, particularly those provided by young musicians. The Exhibition will be open to all Lenoir Independent Living residents, the student performers, their families and their piano teachers. The exhibition will not be advertised as an event open to the public.
2. Performing in the Showcase Exhibition is optional. A student may not have the time or desire to perform in the Exhibition. The Exhibition has been scheduled for students who want an additional performance opportunity.
3. When the student's application to audition is submitted, we will need the student's decision regarding the Exhibition performance. Please have the answer before completing the application form. The application asks the following question:

“All students auditioning are invited to perform their audition piece at the Piano Showcase Exhibition at Lenoir Woods Senior Living on October 17th and if needed October 19th. Select all that apply to the student.

- If selected for the Showcase at the Missouri Theatre, the student will also perform at the Exhibition.
 - If NOT selected for the Showcase at the Missouri Theatre, the student will perform at the Exhibition.
 - The student is NOT interested in performing at the Exhibition.”
4. Based on total performance time for all who sign up, there will be one Exhibition on October 17th at 6:00 pm or two Exhibitions with the second one on October 19th at 6:00 pm.
 5. By close of day Tuesday, October 10th, the teachers will receive a program of the performance for the October 17th (and October 19th Exhibition, if necessary) and they will inform their students.
 6. The format for the exhibitions will be as follows:
 - a. All students will arrive at the Exhibition by 5:45 pm.
 - b. Performance attire is required.
 - c. A printed program will provide the student's number, name, teacher, age and composition.
 - d. Each student will proceed to the grand piano when the person preceding them has completed their performance.
 - e. There will not be an emcee for the event.
 - f. There will not be an additional certificate since each student will have received their participation certificate at the audition.
 7. Students and their families are encouraged to stay until the completion of the Exhibition.

PIANO STUDENT SHOWCASE DRESS REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

The Dress Rehearsal and the Performance will be on the same date, **Sunday, October 29, 2023**, at the Missouri Theatre, 203 South 9th Street, Columbia MO.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The **list of students** selected for the Piano Student Showcase Performance will be **e-mailed to the teachers** no later than 6:00 pm, **Sunday, October 8, 2023**. The actual **schedule for the Showcase rehearsal and performance** will be **e-mailed to the teachers** no later than **Tuesday, October 10th**.

Every student selected to be in the Performance will receive a certificate of distinction recognizing the total number of years they have been selected for the Piano Student Showcase Performance.

The Piano Student Showcase Performance will be **videotaped**. The video will be posted on <https://themosy.org/piano-showcase/> and the link will be forwarded to each teacher to send to their students. Parents will be asked to sign a wavier to allow their child to be in the video and its use. These forms will be available at the audition.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE

All persons planning to attend are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance by going to <https://themosy.org/piano-showcase/>. This ensures check-in at the performance goes smoothly. Adult tickets are \$10 per person. Performers, children and all K-12 and college students have free admission, but registering online is still encouraged.

Dress Rehearsal on Sunday, October 29, 2023:

- a. The time of the dress rehearsal for each student will be provided when the final schedule for the rehearsal and performance is provided to the teachers on October 10th.
- b. **Performance attire** must be worn to the dress rehearsal.
- c. **A professional photographer** will be taking pictures during the student's rehearsal. The link to the photos will be provided to the teachers for sharing with the student and their families. Downloading the pictures will be free of charge for a limited time after the posting. Photographs may be ordered for a cost from the photographer.
- d. The group picture for all students performing in each act will be taken at the **END OF THE REHEARSAL FOR THAT ACT**. Families are free to leave after all students in that act have rehearsed and the group picture taken.
- e. The dress rehearsal may be taped or photographed by the families.

Performance on Sunday, October 29, 2023, 4:00 pm:

- a. The Performance is divided into two halves. Each half of the performance will have representation of all age groups and the schedule will be set with consideration as to the music flow and age of the performers.
- b. Attendees and parents are **NOT** allowed to take group or student pictures during the Performance. **We regret that we must implement the no photo requirement during the Performance to not interfere with the enjoyment of others or provide a distraction of the pianist.**
- c. **Attendees and parents** may take **videos from the balconies only**. Please briefly go to the balcony to take the videos.
- d. Students and families are encouraged to stay for the entire Performance.