

50th Annual TFMC All State Festival

2026 OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES & REQUIREMENTS

REGISTRATION OPEN: March 28, 2026 DEADLINE: April 10, 2026

FEE PAYMENTS DUE OR POST MARKED: April 10, 2026

VIDEO & PDF SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: April 18, 2026

Testing for Theory is scheduled for May 9, 10am and 2pm.

Testing for Sight Sing/Play is scheduled for May 16.

Performance Adjudication is generally May 16-22. Results emailed to teachers within one week.

REGISTRATION LINK LOCATED AT: <https://texasfederationmusic.org>

This event is sponsored by Texas Federation of Music Clubs and is a competition specifically designed for Texas Junior Division members, residing in Texas, who participate in the National Federation of Music Clubs non-competitive Festival Program. Generally, NFMC rules listed in the Federation Festivals Bulletin apply. Exceptions are listed within this document.

These are the Official Competition Rules & Requirements governing the Texas Federation of Music Clubs (TFMC) All State Festival Competition. We understand that some of our participants would like to return to a live event. In spite of our efforts, there was no facility willing, able, to host an event as large as ours at this time. We hope that in the future, facilities once again open up to larger events because we believe live performance is especially good for young musicians. In the meantime, we live in a digital age, and many 2nd and 3rd tier competitions exist as digital events. We believe experience in this area is also valuable for the well rounded preparation of the student.

GENERAL FESTIVAL REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

General rules as set forth in the most recent edition of the *Federation Festivals Bulletin* are in effect for this event. **Exceptions listed below are adapted for and specific to the TFMC All State Festival event.**

ELIGIBILITY:

Festival participation is open to any Junior NFMC Member who has earned a Superior Rating in an NFMC/TFMC District/Local Festival during the current festival year and who meets the following criteria:

- Is a legal resident of Texas.
- Is 18 years of age or under on the qualifying district festival date
- Has not graduated from high school prior to the qualifying district festival date
- Only teachers are allowed to register eligible students.
- Teachers entering students must be a current Senior Member of NFMC/TFMC.
- Teachers may only enter students whom they personally teach.
- At this time, **ADULTS who perform in the district/local level festivals ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE STATE FESTIVAL.**
- Entrants will be verified as eligible within Vivace records.

EVENTS: All events listed in the *NFMC Federation Festivals Online Bulletin* are available for participants at TFMC State Festival with the exception of Dance and Musicianship - Improvisation.

PERFORMANCE PIECE: The selection registered for any performance event at the All State Festival must be the SAME Required Piece performed at the current local/district NFMC festival for which a Superior rating was awarded.

ZOOM OR VIDEO PERFORMANCES?: Solo and ensemble performances will be judged from online video submissions ONLY. Sight Play/Sing will be adjudicated using online Zoom meetings. The Theory Event will occur using online Zoom meetings. Details will be emailed to teachers prior to testing.

VIRTUAL STUDY: Students taking virtual or online lessons are required to have performed at the 2026 NFMC/TFMC District level festival in person or in a district-sponsored virtual event. They must submit a performance video of the SAME Required Piece and receive a Superior rating in the current NFMC/TFMC District level festival if they choose to participate in the All State Festival event. Students wishing to enter Theory or Sight Play/Sing must have received a grade of 91 (Superior) or above in the current festival year at their NFMC/TFMC District festival. Their State Festival event will be adjudicated with online Zoom meetings or an alternative format. Teachers will be notified.

THEORY: Theory entrants should indicate whether they prefer a 10AM or 2PM testing session on May 9, 2026 in the Special Request Box during registration. Students with no request will be randomly scheduled otherwise.

SCJM: Specially Capable Junior Musicians (SCJM) requiring special aid or consideration will be entered as NON-COMPETE entries. Upon registration for TFMC All State Festival, it is required to advise the event chairman in the Special Request box what is needed and how we can help with the details of each student's special designation. The SCJM designation will NOT appear on the rating sheet or other documentation. This is considered confidential information. Any student requiring special designation will be considered as a NON-COMPETE entrant.

ENSEMBLE PARTNER SUBSTITUTIONS: Occasionally, an ensemble member is unable to participate in the state-wide festival. A proxy partner is allowed in this case, only if the following qualifications are met. A proxy partner must be a Federation junior member whose solo level is within 2 levels of the remaining partner. Only 1 substitution per duet, duo, trio or quartet is allowed. A teacher, parent, any other adult, or a non-NFMC member may NOT substitute for missing ensemble partners. A student may not perform in more than one of any ensemble event. (1 duet and 1 trio, but not 2 duets or 2 trios) Registration fees must be paid by each entrant due to competition expenses of this event. Emergency substitution, except as described here is prohibited.

LARGE ENSEMBLE ENTRIES OF 5+ MEMBERS: At registration, give each large ensemble a name, such as "Cornerstone Jr High Choir". The Teacher should note in the Special Request box at time of registration the accurate number of students in the ensemble. Student names are not necessary. The ensemble category winner will receive one ALL STATE plaque. All ensemble members will receive a Participant ribbon.

COLLABORATIONS/ACCOMPANIMENTS: The applicant must perform with a piano accompaniment unless the piece is written for unaccompanied solo or ensemble. Recordings are acceptable when accompaniment is required by the composer in the published piece. The accompaniment is not required when it is marked "optional". General Bulletin requirements apply with these exceptions: accompanists for solo or concerto entrants do not receive a plaque or ribbon award, even if they are Junior members. Entrants in the Piano Accompaniment Event must provide their own soloists or ensemble performers. Piano Collaboration Event entrants do receive an award, but their soloists or ensemble performers do not. Use of a pre-recorded accompaniment is acceptable.

MEMORY REQUIREMENTS: NFMC Bulletin instructions and NFMC directives will be followed regarding memory requirements. No extra credit is to be given for memorized performances at events where memory is not required. Refer to the Bulletin for specifics. Students submitting non-memorized pieces for memorized required events will receive no rating, but may receive comments.

HYMN AND PATRIOTIC/FOLK EVENTS: These will perform the Required Piece exactly as written with no additions or improvisations.

CONCERTOS: Please omit repeats of 10 or more bars for any entry and reduce long accompaniment sections. Due to time limitations, 10 minutes of any concerto shall be adjudicated and judges will determine starting and stopping points.

ADJUDICATION PROCEDURES: Submissions will be judged after being validated and prepared for adjudication. Our judges are well qualified, experienced and highly recommended adjudicators. Our entrants perform for the judge and compete with other entrants in a group containing entrants in the same event and level. The size of each group is determined by the number of entries received. All performance videos will be grouped in this manner and adjudicated appropriately.

Adjudicators will reference PDFs of student owned music scores plus performance videos as they write critiques/comments. All Judges Comments and Ratings will be printed on Certificates and shipped with awards to District Chairmen for distribution to area teachers as soon as is possible.

Please realize that professional printing does take a considerable amount of prep and production time as does packing and shipping. We hope to have everything completed by the first part of June.

RATINGS AND AWARDS:

Each performance receives one of the following ratings: Very Good, Excellent, Superior, Outstanding or All State Winner. Each student will receive ONE award for each performance, either a plaque or a ribbon. The only exceptions are Ensembles of 5+ members that receive ONE award per group with members receiving a participation ribbon. Monetary Award Winners will be notified shortly after adjudication is closed. Award money will be disbursed by the TFMC State Treasurer approximately two weeks after all required paperwork is processed. **All State Winners will receive a plaque and become eligible for inclusion in the All State Honors Virtual Recital to be held during the TFMC Annual Convention on Junior Day in August, 2026.** All plaques, ribbons and ratings sheets will be shipped to District Festival Chairs at the end of the event for distribution to teachers. This usually occurs after national convention or conference in June.

RATING DEFINITIONS:

All State Winner – Only ONE performance from each group will be chosen as the All State Winner. All other entrants in a group will receive either the Outstanding, Superior, Excellent, or Very Good ribbon. Judges may withhold the All State Winner award ONLY if there are no Outstanding ratings in a folder.

Outstanding -- Excellent musical and technical performance; all elements (dynamics, style, phrasing, marks of expression, fingering, pedaling, memory, musicality, etc.) present and working together; this great performance is of public recital quality. This rating is NOT merely 2nd place. Any worthy performance can receive this rating. Receives the red, white, and blue rosette ribbon award.

Superior -- A good performance with one or two elemental difficulties or a few clear note and/or rhythm errors. Receives a blue 6" carded ribbon award.

Excellent -- Shows accomplishment and good potential, but has numerous elemental weaknesses or errors in notes and rhythm. Receives a red 6" carded ribbon award.

Very Good -- Needs help in fundamentals, i.e. rhythm, memory, notes, understanding and preparation. Receives a green 6" carded ribbon award.

MONETARY AWARDS:

Each Monetary Award Event Winner will receive a Monetary Award. Eligible Events are selected according to the number of entries in pre-selected events. Only official Monetary Award Winners are eligible to receive a cash award plus the opportunity to be showcased on our **TFMC All State Honors Virtual Recital** at our annual Convention or on our YouTube Channel. Cash awards are made at the discretion of the judges. All decisions by TFMC All State Festival and its judges are binding and final.

Monetary awards will be provided each year as funds are available. The following events are eligible:

PIANO:	Piano Solo MA2, MA1, VD2, VD1, D2, D1, Piano Concerto SR, JR3
ORGAN:	Organ Solo MA2, MA1
VOCAL:	Vocal Art Song Solo MA3, MA2, MA1 Vocal Music Theater Solo MA3, MA2, MA1
STRING:	Violin Solo ADV2, ADV1 Violin Concerto SR Viola Solo ADV2, ADV1 Viola Concerto SR Cello Solo ADV2, ADV1 Cello Concerto SR String Bass Solo ADV Harp Solo ADV Harp Concerto Classical Guitar Solo ADV Classical Guitar Concerto

MINIMUM ENTRANTS: A Monetary Award event must have a **minimum of three (3) entrants.** Monetary Awards are provided for only ONE All State Winner in each of these listed events.

VIRTUAL PLAYOFFS: Should there be more than one All State Winner selected in any single Monetary Award level, a virtual playoff will occur and ONE Monetary Award Winner will be selected for that level.

AWARD WITHHELD: Should an All State Winner NOT be chosen in any event, the monetary award will be withheld. Judges' decisions are final.

MONETARY WINNER REQUIREMENTS: Before funds are released to the winner, NFMC/TFMC memberships of BOTH teachers and students will be validated. Unpaid dues will result in the withholding of funds. TFMC monetary award winners will be required to sign a Publicity Release and to submit their social security number and IRS Form W9 to the TFMC Treasurer (IRS rule). No award transfer, assignment, or substitution by any All State Winner is permitted. TAXES ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WINNERS.

MUSIC PDF SCORES

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY TO UPLOAD

**Video and Score PDF Submission Deadline is April 18, 2026, 11:59 PM CDT (Central Daylight Time).
Adjudication begins approximately 3rd week of May.**

Please read the following carefully. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in rejection of submitted materials.

All music scores shall be submitted in PDF format and meet the following standards:

- Include copyright notation in the scan
- Include cover of the book/sheet music in the scanned PDF
- Remove teacher name or other identifying information from scanned pages.
- NUMBER THE MEASURES – videos will be rejected if PDF scores do not have numbered measures
- JPG/JPEG format is NOT acceptable
- Name/rename PDF files using the following naming convention:
 - Solo/Concerto/Theory events: StudentLastName StudentFirstName Event Class
 - Example: Bunny Bugs ViolinSolo Primary4
 - Highlighting is for illustration purposes only. Use plain text when naming files.
 - Duet/Duo events: Student1LastName Student1FirstName Student 2LastName Student2FirstName Event Class
 - Trio events: Student1LastName Student1FirstName Student 2LastName Student2FirstName Student 3LastName Student3FirstName Event Class
 - Quartet events: Student1LastName Student1FirstName Student 2LastName Student2FirstName Student 3LastName Student3FirstName Student 4LastName Student4FirstName Event Class
 - Large Ensemble of 5 or More: EnsembleGroupName Event Class
- Save these PDF scores where they are easily accessible for upload to each student registration record. Delete them all when the event is over.

VIDEO AND RECORDING

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY TO UPLOAD

Video and Score PDF Submission Deadline is April 18, 2026, 11:59 PM CDT (Central Daylight Time).

Please read the following carefully. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in rejection of submitted materials.

Submissions will be judged beginning May 16, 2026. Results are expected to be distributed to participating TFMC teachers by May 31, 2026. Monetary Award Winners will be notified as soon as possible after adjudication is completed. Submissions may be disqualified at any time for non-compliance. Submitted (if any) materials will not be returned. **No submission will be accepted after April 18, 2026.**

There is no ‘live’ performance – all adjudication will take place online through video submission except for Sight Play/Sing and Musicianship - Theory which will utilize online Zoom meetings. Please prepare as high-quality a video as possible to give a fair representation of the performance. Such videos are possible to create using smartphones, iPads, laptops, cameras, or other recording devices. **The following guidelines must be observed:**

- Performances for each class/level solo or ensemble entry must be recorded in one take with no edits.
- Student must announce their name and show the original copy of the music at the beginning of the video
- If a student participates in multiple events, each event must be recorded separately.
- Music scores must not be visible during performance unless the event does NOT require memorization.
- Participants must perform with accompaniment where required.
- Confirm that an accompaniment (when used) is soft enough to hear the soloist – especially important in vocal recordings.
- The video must be from only one fixed angle that best shows the performer (and accompanist if applicable) in performance mode (be mindful of pieces that require pedal, movement, accompaniment). Stabilize the recording device so that it does not need holding by hand.
- If possible, allow at least 8’ distance from performer as though a judge were seated at a recital.
- Dress appropriately for performance: church or concert attire, shoes, presentable appearance.
- Ensure recording device is fully charged or plugged in.
- Create a quiet environment for recording. Remove distractions; put the pets out; nothing on top of piano; clear performance area as if the judge were a guest in your recording studio.
- Eliminate external noises/sounds that might interfere.
- Limit the number of trials/attempts at recording the “perfect” performance. Many times the first “take” will be the best!
- **No multi-angled videos/montages will be accepted as they suggest that the audio and/or video was probably edited.**
- **Name/rename the videos using the same standard as naming PDFs.**
- **TFMC reserves the right to immediately disqualify any submission that shows editing within a piece.**

REGISTRATION

Please do not wait until the last day to register!

REGISTRATION AND FEES PAID DEADLINES ARE BOTH ON OR BEFORE APRIL 10TH. THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONS AFTER APRIL 15TH. Any late registrations after April 10th will need to be registered by event staff and will be subject to late fees. Contact information is located on the last page of this for such. Please mail late fees immediately and notify Event Chairman by email.

BY MAKING A SUBMISSION TO THIS COMPETITION, YOU (1) ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING RULES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS; AND (2) AGREE TO BE BOUND THEREBY.

Register online at <https://texasfederationmusic.org>

Please make sure your contact information, email address, phone number and District Festival # are correct upon registration. Your festival chair knows your festival #. If you can’t figure out the festival #, we need to know the festival chair’s name. This is who we will ship your awards and certificate to at the end of the event. Your physical address must include Street, City, State, and Zip Code. Many leave out the City and Zip Code. Please check for a complete address typed on ONE line.

- You will need a computer with internet access, your NFMC Federation Festivals Online Bulletin printout, and your list of entries.
- Entrants are required to be registered ONLY under the teacher who actually teaches the entrant, exception ensembles. See below.
- Teachers must register individually and not under a studio or group name. If large studios need to pay with one check for several teachers, a studio representative must contact event chair and provide a list of teachers and expected individual fees.
- An ensemble is registered as one performance with multiple performers. Ensembles with students from multiple teachers must register under ONE teacher who will pay all fees and receive all awards from the District Chair for the entire registered ensemble for disbursement to students.
- Accuracy is the responsibility of the teacher. The way you type your entries is exactly how they will print out on rating sheets. Any misspelling is YOURS, and cannot be corrected after rating sheets are printed. Please proofread as you enter the data and before you click SAVE for each performance registered. If you discover an error, please let us know BEFORE adjudication. We are happy to fix misspellings for you if we know about them in time. We recognize this is very important to the children and the parents. Once we print, it's too late to fix.
- Please use normal punctuation, including BOTH capital and lower case letters. PLEASE DO NOT USE ALL CAPS OR ALL LOWER CASE LETTERS, ESPECIALLY IN NAMES. What looks "cool" in one font looks awful in another. Upper and lower cases greatly affect Rating Sheet printer formatting and font selections.
- Fill out the Worksheets attached at the end of this document before you begin. This helps make registration go smoothly and more quickly.
- Go to <https://texasfederationmusic.org> Find the Registration Button when opening date arrives and CLICK it to begin.
- Only create ONE teacher account/profile using your email address. If you've lost/forgotten previously used passwords, click on the option to receive an email sending you a new link to your account/profile.
We no longer have access to previous email accounts associated with the All State Festival. Simply open a new account.
- The online registration software registers one performance at a time. It is intuitive and self-explanatory.
- Entries are accepted only for events listed in the current festival bulletin, with the exception of Dance and Musicianship/Improvisation. Musicianship/Theory is now included as an event, however. Entries and fees are accepted only from NFMC member teachers, and NOT from individual students or from public schools, private schools or other private entities.
- This year, you will upload the actual video file of the performance and the score/pdf files stored on your computer into the Simplissimo registration application. It's pretty simple and instructions will be right in front of you. However, if you need help, just let us know.

LATE ENTRIES: Do NOT attempt to add entries after April 10th. Register ONLY the students you are certain will participate. No Withdrawals or fee refunds will be made. **Exceptions/Additions after April 10 can only be entered by festival staff. NO ADDITIONS AFTER APRIL 15th. Additions after April 10 are subject to Late Fees. Mail your Late Entry Fees IMMEDIATELY and email chairman to notify.**

FEES and FEE PAYMENTS

TFMC All State Festival will not be responsible for event cancellation due to internet interruption beyond our control, tragedy, terrorist, security, weather, illness, pandemic or bank failure or any other issues or government or community requirements.

EVENTS	ENTRY FEES
EACH SOLO OR CONCERTO EVENT	\$ 40.00
EACH THEORY TEST	\$ 40.00
EACH DUET/DUO	\$ 56.00 (\$28 each student)
EACH TRIO	\$ 84.00 (\$28 each student)
EACH QUARTET	\$ 112.00 (\$28 each student)
EACH GROUP OF 5+	\$ 140.00 (per group)
LATE ENTRIES	LATE FEES
After April 10th	Late fees equal to entry fee

Fees are due April 10 by postmark or entry timestamps.

Fees mailed and postmarked or entries timestamped April 11 or later, will incur late fees.

- Payments are accepted from music teachers only.
- Individual checks from students/parents will NOT be accepted.
- Private music studios with multiple teachers wishing to write one check for all fees will need to email a spreadsheet list of individual teachers names, addresses, phone numbers and the amount of fees paid per teacher. Send to HKLILT@yahoo.com at the same time fees are paid. Please also provide the name of a contact person for the studio along with his or her phone number and email address in case of questions.
- **Payments from public and/or private general education schools will not be accepted.**
- We accept payments of *personal checks, cashiers' checks, checks issued through your bank's BillPay option, and money orders*. Make one check out for your entire registration to "TFMC All State Festival" and mail to the Chairman, address below. Teachers, please make sure your name, address, and phone number are printed on the check. Don't forget to sign the check!
- We also have secure credit card processing available within our registration system if you wish to pay your fees by credit card.

- **We no longer have a Zelle or PayPal account available for festival fee payments. If you accidentally send money to previous accounts, or to a previous phone number, we will not be responsible to recover it for you.**
- Fee payments are NON-REFUNDABLE. TFMC All State Festival will not be responsible for event cancellation due to internet interruption beyond our control, tragedy, terrorist, security, weather, illness, pandemic, bank failures, or any other issues or reasons or government or community requirements.
- Payment of fees constitutes consent to TFMC's All State Festival Agreement as follows:
 - Teacher certifies that the teacher, students, and parents will abide by all rules and regulations for this festival.
 - All fees are non-refundable - even if the entrant is disqualified.
 - Judges' decisions are final.
 - TFMC All State Festival will not use performance videos for any purpose other than Festival adjudication without a signed release.

You can pay by credit card within the registration system.

***If paying by check, mail one check payable to "TFMC All State Festival" to:
(write your name, address and phone number on the check)***



**Lily Tsang, Chairman
TFMC ALL STATE FESTIVAL
9711 Mason Road, Ste 125-490
Richmond, TX 77407**

832.858.5595 cell HKLILT@yahoo.com email

- Parents, please kindly allow Teachers to contact the festival staff on your behalf for answers to questions. We are happy to work directly with a parent needing help with tech issues if the teacher has received prior permission from a TFMC staff member requested above.
- There are a number of other staff members on our team as well who may be available to help. Our core team has a very tight production timeline to complete this prestigious competition. Any delays to our schedule may push our students receiving their awards further into the summer months than expected. So we are working very hard to provide a first rate, timely experience for our participants. Thanks for your understanding and for your encouragement! We surely appreciate you and celebrate your interest in the musical training of your children! Our team is here to serve our students and families and our teachers.