WHAT IS THE FEDERATION FESTIVAL?

The National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) is an organization that has been promoting music education and providing opportunities for musical growth since 1898. NFMC began the festivals program to provide musicians of all ages and abilities an opportunity to perform and receive a yearly evaluation in a non-competitive environment. Participation in the Festivals promotes music study, stimulates interest in the musical literature by American composers, and encourages each participant to reach a high standard of musical achievement. The NFMC Festivals Cup Award Plan and Honor Certificates offer additional incentives to encourage continued participation in NFMC Festivals.

HOW DID METRO MUSIC MAKERS GET INVOLVED?

Growing up in the 80's and as a young student herself, our President (Allison Boyd), participated in the Federation Festivals. The valuable experience of participating in these festivals left such an impression on her that she began entering her own students in festivals in 2006. Because of the tremendous feedback she received from the parents and students who participated, she was inspired to offer this opportunity to all Metro Music Makers students. To do so, she established the Metro Music Makers Club in 2009, and the first MMM Festival was held in 2010.

We currently offer festival participation for the Piano Solo Event, Piano Duet Event, Vocal Solo Event, Classical Guitar Solo Event and Violin Solo Event.

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD PARTICIPATE?

There are many benefits of participation in the festivals, and here are just a few:

- Students learn how to prepare for a formal occasion such as an audition, recital or competition.
- Students receive valuable feedback from an experienced judge in a non-competitive environment.
- The evaluation provides a measure of the student’s musical progress based on a national standard.
- The evaluation provides a measure of the teacher’s influence on the student.
- Students are exposed to musical literature composed by current American composers.
- Students learn the value of achieving long-term goals, especially when working towards a trophy.
- Participation is a perfect addition to the college resume.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY CHILD WON’T FLOP?

The festival is designed to be a positive experience for each student who diligently prepares. The judges have received training and instruction for providing positive feedback - both verbal and written - no matter what rating the student receives. The only way a student can “flop” is if she doesn’t prepare.

WHAT ARE THE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS?

Each student must memorize 2 pieces to perform in a closed audition with the judge. One piece must be selected from the list of American compositions provided by NFMC, and the second piece is chosen by the teacher and student and must be of the same difficulty level. There are guidelines concerning the choice piece that must be adhered to by each participating student. All MMM instructors have access to these guidelines, and our President approves each student’s repertoire one month in advance to make sure their pieces meet the requirements.
HOW WILL MY CHILD BE RATED?

The judge will have a judging sheet to use for the evaluation. On the sheet, the judge will provide written feedback along with the student’s rating. Each rating is worth points, and the points are as follows:

Superior = 5 points, Excellent = 4 points, Satisfactory = 3 points, Fair = 2 points, Needs Improvement = 1 point

Students earn trophies for every 15 points that they receive. The quickest way to earn a trophy is to receive a Superior rating 3 years in a row. This is a terrific opportunity for students to learn how to follow through on a long-term goal, and they look forward to it! Students who don’t earn Superiors can still earn trophies, it may just take an extra year or two. The trophies become larger with the number of points. We’ve seen students earn 45 and 60 point cups which means they participated a minimum of 9-12 years! Quite an accomplishment!

WHAT IS THE COST?

Participation in each event is $25.00. All fees are non-refundable and are due along with your tuition payment for February. Your participation fee will be billed in February.

WHAT IF I HAVE A CONFLICT WITH THE FESTIVAL DATE?

Please email us at info@metromusicmakers.com with your scheduling needs on the festival date, and we will do our best to accommodate you. The festival will begin at 9 AM and will run into the mid/late afternoon depending on the number of participants. If you are unavailable for the full day, we will ask other local clubs if your student may audition at one of their festivals on a different date.

WHY WE BELIEVE IN FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION:

We’ve seen time after time over the course of several years a great excitement and motivation that the Festival Program provides for our students. Our experience has been that students who participate in this event look forward to it each year, especially as they strive to earn trophies. It gives students a wonderful sense of accomplishment and self-esteem. Because of the way the program is designed, students are encouraged to move to more difficult levels each year to ensure that they are making musical progress. For parents and teachers, the festival provides a measurement of how the students are doing in lessons based on a national standard. Receiving constructive feedback from an industry expert is such a valuable opportunity for both musical growth and life skills!

If you have further questions about festival participation, please contact Allison Boyd by emailing allison@metromusicmakers.com.