

AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSIC

44th Great Lakes Regional Virtual Contest

ELIGIBILITY

All students must be entered by teachers or studios that are members of the American Guild of Music. An individual teacher may become a Professional member, or a Studio may become a Studio/Store member, which permits all of the teachers who teach at that studio to enter students.

In an effort to ensure the delivery of a valuable and fair competition experience on a virtual platform, the American Guild of Music has had to reduce the number of events open for competition and will cap the number of contestants, therefore it is very important to get your registration completed well in advance of the deadline date. AGM will also be providing participating students with a video outlining virtual competition, how to's, do's and don'ts.

GENERAL RULES and INFORMATION

1) The decisions of the judges are final!

7) All performances are the property of the American Guild of Music and may be used for promotion. All rights reserved.

8) All contestants and attendees are expected to act in a respectful and dignified manner. Cell Phones and Pagers must be turned off in the virtual contest rooms. Ensure that auxiliary noise is kept to an absolute minimum as these can easily be picked up on the microphone of a performing contestant.

9) Individual contestants entering one or more divisions for a second instrument, the length of study for the secondary instrument will include a handicap of 50% of the difference between the length of study of the primary and secondary instrument.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SOLO EVENTS

1) Time limits will be strictly observed. Players exceeding the time limits will be stopped and/or lose points. In NAIC events, all non-essential repeats MUST be eliminated. **Time limits have been reduced due to the online virtual nature of this contest. Please see time limits.**

2) Contestants that require accompaniment may use a recorded accompaniment. Do not play the accompaniment track from the same device that you are using to run ZOOM. A separate device and speaker are required to balance sound. Vocalists may not accompany themselves for any solo.

3) Improvisation is allowed except in the Pop divisions. Keyboard may use appropriate effects if noted, but no multi-track sequencing is allowed in Non-Sequenced Keyboard events.

4) Medleys are allowed under the following conditions; Vocal medleys are allowable but only as a published arrangement. Medleys are allowable in all other divisions!q use

LOS Category Ti

AGE QUALIFICATIONS

Piano, Voice, Wind, Strings, Guitar, Keyboard

Contestants will be grouped by age regardless of how long they have been studying. Vocalists may compete in Classical Art Song and Musical Theatre divisions. Students who place 1st, 2nd and 3rd qualify for the Age Finals which will take place at the National Contest in July.

This is a Virtual Contest!

Virtual Contest Format

The American Guild of Music contest will look different than an in-person contest. We will be using the ZOOM platform to conduct the contest. In order to participate, you must have a ZOOM compatible device such as a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Please read the following to understand the general format of the contest:

- 1) Prior to the competition, you will receive an email with your schedule as well as a "Meeting ID." The Meeting ID is your link to access the contest rooms. You cannot enter the contest without this information.
- 2) AGM will be using the "Breakout Rooms" feature to run our contests. Upon logging into the meeting with the provided code, you will be placed into a waiting room. The Contest Director will then "open the door" for you and you will be placed into the general session. This is NOT the competition room. The Contest Director will then move you to the Breakout Room that your performance will occur.
- 3) Once you are placed into a Breakout Room, you will see the other contestants in your division as well as an AGM Host and the judge. The AGM Host will be running your contest room and will be your point of contact if there are any issues or questions. If you need to ask

If plugging a USB microphone into a phone or tablet, additional adaptors may be required.

All contestants are responsible for testing any sound equipment BEFORE the competition to ensure it's in working order and proper adjustments. Performers will not be allowed time for sound level checks and device set-up once a contest begins.

Prior to the contest, please adjust the following sound settings in Zoom:

Don't allow microphone to automatically adjust voOn

General Device Safety

Ensure your computer, smartphone (Android/Samsung/iOS) or other device is up-to-date on its computer software and patches. Check for updates regularly and do not leave your computer or device off for long periods without getting updates.

Ensure that your computer or smartphone device has an up-to-date anti-virus product installed. We recommend purchasing one from a well-known vendor such as McAfee, Sophos, Trend Micro, Symantec or MalwareBytes.

Keep your Web browser up-to-date. Using current versions of Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, and Safari. If you are unable to install the latest versions of the software, we recommend you limit the use of that device.

We will be using ZOOM as our service provider for the 119th National Virtual Contest, please download the zoom app and create an account. Ensure that your device (computer, smartphone, or tablet) is Zoom compatible either through an internet browser or the Zoom app,

Ensure that the email address provided on your contest registration is an up to date

An AGM room monitor will control your the muting and unmuting of all participants
AGM will disable file transfers
AGM will prevent participants from saving the chat
AGM will disable the option for participants to record locally
AGM will control screen sharing and annotation so that only the host can share and annotate when necessary
AGM will disable private chat between users
AGM will remove a participant if they have not been invited or become disruptive in the session
Participants will be able to chat with the AGM host only, in the event that they are experiencing technical difficulties.
AGM Judge is NOT the host, and as in all AGM Contests, communication between the performer and the judge is strictly prohibited and must go through the AGM host

Instrumentation for Piano Competition

For AGM Virtual contests, piano competitions may use an acoustic piano OR a 76-88 weighted electronic keyboard. Please follow the guidelines below for your competition instrument.

Acoustic Pianos: If possible, please ensure that your piano has been recently tuned. However, there is no penalty to a student's score unless the judge feels the tuning drastically detracts from the student's performance.

Digital Pianos: When keys on a digital keyboard are weighted, they feel more like playing real piano keys. Weighted keys are a feature that help electronic pianos/keyboards feel more like the action of an acoustic piano. If you are still unsure, please search online for the brand/model of your keyboard and review the manufacturer's description.

Students using a digital piano or keyboard for the contest should ensure that it uses weighted keys as it affects the ability to properly perform dynamics. If a performer uses an instrument without weighted keys or does not allow for dynamic contrast without adjusting the overall volume, a penalty will be incurred as all markings in a musical competition will be judged.

Students using a digital piano or keyboard should also ensure they have working accessories that replicate an acoustic piano to properly perform their work (i.e. sustain pedal). A penalty may be incurred if such an accessory is not used and is called for in the score, or the judge feels it's absence detracted from the performance.

Prior to competition, those using a digital keyboard or piano should ensure they have done a sound check to set the proper volume level for their instrument. If a judge cannot hear it, or if the sound is distorted from a loud volume, it may affect the performer's score.

Please note, all rulings of the judge are final so it is best to ensure that your instrument is properly set up and tested BEFORE the contest.