



ANNOUNCEMENT: The April 5th MTAC Pasadena Branch's Winds Concerto Competition has a new format!

This is the branch's second year holding a large in-person event for MTAC Pasadena Winds post-pandemic. Many students are interested in joining the competition but are still new to performing in-person, (versus filming their performances for online submission), so the event will remain a competition, but will be changed to a fun "Olympics" theme!

The original competition rules had four divisions of players with strict repertoire rules and age limits, all competing against each other to win a prize of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place.

In the new event structure, ALL participants will get a medal based on the quality of their performance - either Gold, Silver, or Bronze! There are no losers. It's a less intimidating format, as participants are only competing against *themselves* to **"GO FOR THE GOLD!"**

There is no longer a 13 year-old minimum age requirement, nor is there a repertoire requirement of playing a concerto or a piece with orchestral accompaniment. This allows for younger players to enter the competition with ANY piece they are able to perform with piano accompaniment, and play it to the best of their ability. If participants don't receive a gold medal this year, they will know, based on the judges' comment sheets, what they need to improve on to produce a performance that has a "gold standard". Students who want to continue to enter the competition with their concerto are still welcome to do so!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What do participants gain from entering the Musical Olympics?

A: Participating in this event encourages students to prepare their chosen repertoire to a high standard and experience the thrill of an in-person performance in front of an audience. Participants will receive a medal based on the quality of their performance, and a certificate. Participants may obtain judges' comment sheets from their teacher following the event. Competitions of this nature cultivate a sense of personal pride for all of a soloist's efforts, and improves awareness of one's abilities as a performer.

Q: Can participants play a piece they already played for CM (Certificate of Merit)?

A: Absolutely! Performing a piece a participant has already put so many hours into learning gives them a higher chance of winning a GOLD medal!

Q: The original repertoire for the competition required that all participants only perform pieces that have orchestral accompaniment, is that still the case?

A: Participants can still choose to perform a concerto, but now ANY solo woodwind or brass repertoire performed with piano accompaniment is appropriate for the competition. Concerto performances are encouraged! Repertoire changes do not give any participant an advantage over another participant, as participants compete with themselves to produce a "GOLD standard" performance. ALL applicants are required to provide the judges with an original copy of their music.

Q: Will participants still need to perform with an accompanist?

A: Yes. Performing with an accompanist shows that you have learned a piece to a high level and allows you to perform the music as the composer intended it to be heard.

Q: How many judges are there?

A: There are two judges, both professional wind players themselves. Participants may request the judges' comments sheet from their teacher after the event is over. All teachers need to pick up students' comment sheets from the Winds Chairperson, no comment sheets will be mailed.

Q: What are the categories participants will be judged on?

A: There are five categories: Rhythmic Integrity, Technical Execution, Artistic Interpretation, Intonation, and Overall Presentation.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: Teachers may sign up their students ASAP using the same Google Forms Link as the previous event, found on the MTAC Pasadena website or by going to <https://mtacpasadena.com/wind/>. Students pay the \$50.00 application fee to their teachers with a check payable to their teacher's name. **Sign up before March 19!**

Q: What if I already signed up as a participant, do I need to sign up again?

A: No, if you signed up before the original March 7th deadline, you're already registered.

Q: What if I want to change my piece that I entered in my application?

A: Repertoire changes will only be accepted until March 19. After that repertoire changes will cost \$10.00.