

The Music Teachers' Association of California, Alameda County Branch

THE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

2026 RAGTIME PIANO FESTIVAL

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Memorial Scholarship Foundation was established in 1956 to incentivize students by sponsoring an annual competition. Funded by contributions and bequests, particularly from the estates of Estelle D. Swift, piano teacher, in 1971, and Esther H. Hughes, voice teacher, in 1982, the Foundation has grown substantially. Since its inception, the Foundation has expanded its scope to include the Discovery Scholarship Program for low-income students and now the Ragtime Piano Festival in 2025.

MSF Ragtime Piano Festival Committee

Committee Chair
Financial Secretary
Members

Kent Tchii
Marc Steiner
Yvonne Donnelley
Carol Newberger

2026 ANNUAL MSF RAGTIME PIANO FESTIVAL

AUDITIONS AND AWARDS CONCERT

Application Deadline: Application must be postmarked on or before Wednesday, October 1, 2026.

Application Fee: \$15 per student entry.

Auditions: Berkeley Piano Club on Saturday, November 7, 2026 between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Festival Awards Concert: Berkeley Piano Club on Saturday, November 14, 2026, 3:00 PM

Note: *All events and formats are subject to change. If any changes are made, all participating teachers will be informed.*

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. The audition is open to Active, Cal Plan, Provisional, and Contributory Piano Teacher Members of the MTAC Alameda County Branch. The piano teachers must have been members for at least ONE year and be in good standing.
2. All applicants must be current students of eligible ACB piano teachers.
3. Piano students are eligible for the audition if they are between the first and twelfth grades and they are not 18 years old by November 14, 2026.
4. Teachers may submit applications only for their own studio.

2026 MSF RAGTIME FESTIVAL APPLICATION RULES

1. An eligible teacher may submit no more than three (3) solo entries and three (3) piano ensemble entries for the audition.
2. All entrants must be enrolled in school grades 1 through 12 at the time of the auditions.
3. **Audition divisions by school grades:**
 - a. **Division I: Grades 1 to 5.**
 - b. **Division II: Grades 6 to 8.**
 - c. **Division III: Grades 9 to 12.**
4. Students may enter with no more than one solo and one ensemble.
5. Division for ensemble entries: Division Level of an Ensemble Entry is determined by the highest grade student of the ensemble as the audition division. For example, if the entry has one in the 7th grade, and the other one is in the 4th grade, this entry must enter Division II.
6. The application fee is \$15 per student per entry. For example, if one student enters both a solo and an ensemble, the fee will be \$15 each, totaling \$30.
7. If the performers in any ensembles are students of more than one teacher, EACH of these teachers must count this ensemble as one of their 3 permitted ensemble entries.
8. **Parents pay their children's application fees to the teachers. Only applicants' teachers MAY write a check payable to "MTAC Alameda County Branch" for the total amount and mail ONE check with all the application forms from the same studio. Personal check and bank's cashier's check are the only accepted forms of payment. Electronic payments are not accepted.**
9. **One studio's applications and fees may NOT be combined with another studio's in the same envelope.**
10. All solo and/or ensemble applicants must fill out SEPARATE forms for each entry. For example, a student entering a solo and an ensemble must submit two (2) separate application forms.
11. **Application forms for members of an ensemble should be stapled together.**
12. The repertoire information should be **filled out ONLY by the Teacher, NOT by the students or parents**. Inaccurate information may be disqualified.
13. Solo and Ensemble pieces must be original copyrighted publications.
14. Ensemble pieces can be an arrangement.
15. The repertoire information on the Application Form submitted should include:
 - a. Very Important: **TEACHERS** are responsible for the accuracy of the Repertoire Information.
 - b. Student must apply with a piece which is **equivalent to CM Level 3 or above**.
 - c. Composer's Full Name and the complete title of the piece.
 - d. If the piece is selected from an album, suite, collection, etc., that original title of the album must also be listed.
 - e. The actual and exact performance length of the piece.
 - e. **All Ragtime pieces must execute the REPEATS.**
 - f. **The performing piece may not exceed FIVE (5) minutes.**
16. If the performance information is incomplete or inaccurate, or not complying with the requirements of the auditions, the entry will NOT be accepted and be disqualified.
17. No request for rescheduling of audition time is permitted.
18. All repertoire is subject to review and approval by the MSF Ragtime Piano Festival Committee and can not be changed once accepted.
16. **Winners of the 2026 Ragtime Festival may NOT use the same piece to audition for the next MSF Audition on January 31, 2027.**
17. **PLEASE FOLLOW THESE RULES CAREFULLY. THEY FACILITATE THE JOB OF THE MSF RAGTIME PIANO FESTIVAL COMMITTEE. APPLICATIONS NOT CONFORMING TO THE RULES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

2026 AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Solo pieces must be memorized.**
2. Solo pieces must be original copyrighted publications, and not arrangements.
3. Ensemble pieces must be original copyrighted publications. However, they may be copyrighted arrangements.
4. **It is strongly encouraged to have ensemble pieces memorized. Ensemble students must use copyrighted scores for their performance, if not playing from memory, and provide an extra second original copyrighted score for the judges. No page turner is allowed in the auditions.**
5. Due to copyright laws, every applicant **must provide an original copyrighted score 15 minutes before the audition.** Without providing the original copyrighted score, the applicant will **NOT** be allowed to audition. No copied scores are allowed in the event.
6. Very Important: **All Ragtime pieces must execute the REPEATS.**
7. All applicants must arrive at the Berkeley Piano Club with their original copyrighted score **15 minutes BEFORE** their scheduled audition time slot. Late comers will be rejected for audition.
8. The auditions are closed to the public, including the parents and teachers. Parents may expect to pick up their participants after their one-hour slot.
9. Teachers may not perform/accompany their students at the auditions.
10. Application fees are not refundable.
11. In all cases, the decisions of the Ragtime Piano Festival Committee are final.
12. The result and evaluations will be sent ***via email*** to the participating teachers within 4 days after the auditions. Therefore, the teacher should text **ONLY IF** they have not received them by Thursday after the auditions.

PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT

1. **The maximum time of the performance of each piece is FIVE (5) minutes.**
2. **When performing the Ragtime music, all repeats must be executed.**
3. **If the performance exceeds the time limit, the student will be disqualified.**

2026 MSF RAGTIME PIANO FESTIVAL AWARDS CONCERT

1. **The MSF Ragtime Piano Festival Awards Concert:** Berkeley Piano Club on Saturday, November 14, 2026, at 3:00 pm.
2. **The winners must check in at least 30 minutes before the concert.**
3. **All students selected as winners must perform and remain for the entire concert to receive the award.**
4. **Ensemble students, if not playing from memory, must use an original copyrighted score for their performance. No copied scores are allowed in the event.**
5. At the end of the concert, all winners will be introduced and receive the Awards and Certificate while the audience applauds.
6. The Festival Awards Concert is open to the public. Students, parents, teachers, and friends are warmly invited to the Festival Awards Concert. Admission is free.

If you have questions after reading the application form THOROUGHLY, please text Kent Tchii at 510-501-2957.

2026 MSF RAGTIME PIANO FESTIVAL AUDITION APPLICATION FORM

Make photocopies of this form as needed or download from mtacalameda.org.

The application fee is \$15 per student per entry. For example, fees must cover both if a student enters with a solo piece and as part of an ensemble. Therefore, the fee for both entries will be \$30.00.

TEACHERS: mail all the application forms with ONE check for the total amount for the application fees payable to MTAC Alameda County Branch to:

Kent Tchii
MSF Ragtime Piano Festival Committee
415 McDonnell Road, Alameda, CA 94502

The teacher must fill out the application forms and mail them *postmarked on or before October 1, 2026*. Performances must be precisely timed. Do not estimate. **Incomplete forms will not be accepted. All applications must be postal delivered. No Drop-off application will be accepted.**

After thoroughly reading preceding rules and requirements, please fill out this form carefully and completely, so there are no omissions.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

THE FOLLOWING TO BE FILLED OUT ONLY BY PARENTS

Division: _____ (Division I: Gr 1-5. Division II: Gr 6-8. Division III: Gr 9-12.)

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

School: _____ School Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

Home Address: _____

Years of Study with Current Instructor: _____

THE FOLLOWING TO BE FILLED OUT ONLY BY INSTRUCTOR

Instructor _____ Phone _____

Instructor's Email _____

Instrumental Configuration: Solo _____ 1P/4H _____ 1P/6H _____

2P/4H _____ 2P/8H _____ Other: Please specify _____

Composer: _____

Title: _____ Timing of the audition piece: _____

IF THIS APPLICATION IS INCOMPLETE, THE ENTRY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

See above Requirements & Procedure for details.

I have read all information about the festival and understand the rules and requirements. I agree to abide by these rules and requirements. I understand that in all cases, the decisions of the Committee are final.

Instructor

Parent/Guardian

Applicant