

Forum Music Teachers Association presents
The Houston Forum Young Artist Competition
 Saturday, May 16, 2026
 Moores School of Music at the University of Houston

Eligibility

Any piano student enrolled in a public, parochial, or private elementary, junior, or senior high school in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, or Oklahoma may enter. For the purpose of this competition, home schools are considered private schools.

Awards

Monetary awards:

Division IX: 1st place - \$150; 2nd place - \$100

Division X: 1st place - \$200; 2nd place - \$150

Trophies:

First, Second, Third and Fourth place trophy awards for winners in each division

Ribbons:

Honorable Mention Rosette Ribbon awards for up to six finalists in each division.

Finalist Ribbons for all contestants progressing to final rounds.

Participation ribbons and critique sheets for all contestants.

Fees

The entry fees per each student are the following:

FMTA members - \$30

Non-FMTA members - \$55.

Entry fees are not refundable.

Only **one** check or a Zelle payment from **the teacher**, not a student, will be accepted.

Check should be payable to: **FMTEF** (*Forum Music Teachers Educational Foundation*), and sent to Dr. Lali Elbakidze-Vachev, 1107 Del Norte St. Houston, TX 77018.

Zelle payment should be made using Forumactivities12@gmail.com. In the MEMO section of the transaction, please include: **your name, the event name - HFYAC, and number of contestant entries.**

Registration Information

The competition will be limited to the first 165 entries received.

Registration and information may be requested by **the teachers** only.

Registering teachers must request the **registration form** by email from lalielbakidze@yahoo.com.

Completed registration forms and entry fees are due on **April 1, 2026**. Checks must be postmarked by this date. **No registration changes will be made after the due date.**

Teachers will be notified of performance times for their students two weeks prior to the competition. Performance times may not be requested, or changed.

Teachers may contact HFYAC Chair Dr. Lali Elbakidze-Vachev with questions at lalielbakidze@yahoo.com.

Competition Rules

1. There are ten divisions. The age of the contestant as of September 15, 2025 determines the division he or she will enter.
2. A contestant may enter a higher division than his/her age but not a lower one. Former first place winners must advance to the next higher division.
3. A contestant may enter only one division.
4. If a division is separated into more than one group, each group is given separate awards. Students of the same teacher will be divided into different groups, when possible.
5. A preliminary round is held for each division and closed to the public. Finals may be necessary (depending upon enrollment) before determining winners at which time an audience will be permitted. Awards will be presented immediately following the finals.
6. Contestants who are unable to stay and play in the finals, if chosen, are ineligible to compete in the preliminary round.
7. The required repertoire for each division, I through X, is listed below and must be performed by memory.
8. All judges' decisions are final.
9. Uncivil behavior by a parent, teacher, or student will result in immediately being removed from the competition event premises. The student(s) of the removed parent or teacher are immediately disqualified from the competition. The competitions chair or representative makes this decision, which is final and may not be appealed. This rule exists in order to provide all contestants and their families a safe and welcoming environment. Disqualified participant may be subject to elimination from any future Forum MTA events.

Important reminder about copyright infringement law:

Although participants are not required to bring their music to this competition event, participants must own a legal publication to compete in all Forum MTA events.

Required Repertoire

- I. Age 8: *Sailing Through Clouds* by Florence B. Price. Published by Hal Leonard, available in [Florence Price: Rediscovered Gems for Piano Solo](#).
- II. Age 9: *The Goblin and the Mosquito* by Florence B. Price. Published by Alfred Music in Alfred Masterworks Edition, available in [Price: The Sea Swallow, The Old Boatman & The Goblin and the Mosquito](#).
- III. Age 10: 7. *Trees at Twilight* and 11. *Roundup* by André Previn. Published by Hal Leonard, available in [Impressions for Piano: 20 Pieces for Students by André Previn](#).
- IV. Age 11: *The Storm, Op. 109, No. 13* by Friedrich Burgmüller. Published by Alfred Music in Alfred Masterworks edition, available in [Burgmüller: 18 Characteristic Studies, Opus 109](#).
- V. Age 12: *Sonata in D* by Mateo Albéniz. Published by Alfred Music in Alfred Masterworks Edition, available in [Albéniz: Sonata in D](#).
- VI. Age 13: *Nocturne, Opus 54, No. 4* by Edward Grieg. Published by Alfred Music in Alfred Masterworks edition, available in [Grieg: Nocturne, Opus 54, No. 4](#).
- VII. Age 14: *The Cat and the Mouse* by Aaron Copland. Published by Alfred Music in Alfred Masterworks edition, available in [Copland, The Cat and the Mouse](#).
- VIII. Age 15: *Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118, No. 2* by Johannes Brahms. Published by G. Henle Verlag, Available in [Brahms: Intermezzo A major op. 118 no. 2](#)
- IX. Age 16: *Hungarian, Opus 39, No. 12* By Edward MacDowell. Published by Alfred Music in Alfred Masterworks edition, available in [MacDowell: Hungarian, Opus 39, No. 12](#).
- X. Age 17: III. *Allegro Molto* from Suite Op. 14 by Béla Bartók. Published by G. Henle Verlag, Available in [Béla Bartók: Suite Op. 14](#).

Information about repeats:

Category V, *Sonata in D* by Mateo Albéniz, is to be performed **without** repeats. All other categories are expected to be performed with all indicated repeats.