# GUIDELINES FOR MTNA PERFORMANCE JUDGES (NATIONAL)

Please peruse these guidelines prior to arriving at the competition site.

**MTNA Junior Performance Competitions MTNA Senior Performance Competitions**

**MTNA Young Artist Performance Competitions MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competitions**

The purposes of the Music Teachers National Association performance competitions

are to provide educational experiences for students and teachers and to recognize

exceptionally talented young artists and their teachers in their pursuit of musical excellence.

**Procedures**

• The entrant selects the first work to be performed; the remaining order of the program is then determined by the judge(s).

**•** Entrants may be stopped during the performance of any work (including first chosen work) due to time constraints. A

portion of EACH work must be heard. Judges are not required to hear part of each individual movement of a larger work when the program is over time.

• Entrants must be allowed to play up to the maximum time limit. There must not be time left due to stopping students during the performance.

• The timing of the performance is the responsibility of the designated monitor.

• All repertoire and reproductions of music have been previously accepted by competition officials.

**Comments**

• Judges must write comments on all repertoire performed.

• Judges may comment on any aspect of the performance, including choice of groupings made within individual selections.

• Time taken to write comments between compositions (or movements) should not delay the entrant's performance.

• Written comments should be tactful and in a manner to encourage improvement.

• Judges may not write any rating or indicate a winner on the comment sheet.

**Protocol**

• Judges should not confer during the competition and must refrain from any verbal response to the entrant’s performance.

• Judges should refrain from conversation with anyone other than competition officials until the results of the competition have been announced.

• Judges do not have the authority to disqualify entrants.

**Balloting**

• A winner, second place and third place *must* be selected. No ties are allowed.

• Judges decisions are final.

• Results of balloting are confidential and should not be discussed with entrants, parents or teachers.

##### Judges Orientation Meeting

• Judges must attend an orientation meeting.

• Judges should designate one spokesperson to stop the entrant during a work, to request the next work and to end the

competition when the time is up.

## Junior Performance Competitions

• Memory is required for piano only.

• All students will be allotted twenty (20) minutes maximum performance time.

## Senior Performance Competitions

• Memory is required for solo piano and voice only.

• Brass, Piano, Piano Duet, String and Woodwind will be allotted thirty (30) minutes maximum performance time.

• Voice will be allotted twenty (20) minutes maximum performance time.

## Young Artist Performance Competitions

• Memory is required for piano and voice only.

• Brass, Piano, String and Woodwind will be allotted forty (40) minutes maximum performance time.

• Voice will be allotted thirty-five (35) minutes maximum performance time.

**Chamber Music Performance Competitions**

• Ensembles will be allotted forty (40) minutes maximum performance time.

# Competition Awards

#### National Competitions

• One (1) Winner, one (1) Second Place, one (1) Third Place.

• A tie is not permitted.

# The Procedure for Balloting

**A. Winner**

1. Judge(s) ballot for a single Winner without consultation.

2. Competition Coordinator tabulates the ballots. If there is a majority for one entrant, that entrant is declared the Winner. If there is no Winner, the coordinator informs the judges of the entrants [by number] who received votes on the ballot and the judges again ballot without consultation.

3. Competition Coordinator tabulates second set of ballots. If there is now a majority for one entrant, that entrant is declared the Winner. If there is no Winner, the Coordinator informs the judges of the entrants (by number), who received votes on the second ballot. Serving as moderator, the Competition Coordinator opens discussion and continues balloting until a decision is reached.

**B. Second Place**• Balloting procedures are followed as outlined above to determine Second Place.

**C. Third Place**

• Balloting procedures are followed as outlined for above to determine Third Place.

**D. Chopin/Ebony Prizes**

• After balloting for Winner, 2nd, and 3rd places, the Chopin and Ebony prizes are balloted (the coordinator indicates the eligible entrant numbers):

**Chopin Prize:** Junior and Senior Solo Piano, for Best Chopin Performance,sponsored by the Chopin Foundation of the U.S.

**Ebony Prize:**Junior/Senior/Young Artist Solo Piano, for Best Performance of a piece by a Black Composer**,**sponsored by Ebony Music, Inc.

#### E. Completion of Balloting

• Once the ballot process is completed, the Competition Coordinator completes the Decision of Judges Form. Each judge signs the form, verifying that the entrant numbers correspond to the final decision.