OMTA Solo Festival

2027 Festival Guidelines

Date:	Saturday, April 3, 2027
Location:	Johnson County Community College
Registration Deadline:	February 16, 2027
Registration Fee:	$25 / Entry
Event Co-Chairs:	Jan Holthus, janholthus3@gmail.com Karol Hickel, khickel55@gmail.com Mary Beth Boucher, mbbouchermusic@gmail.com

The annual OMTA Solo Festival allows students to demonstrate their performance skills and theory knowledge in an encouraging environment. Each student will perform one selection for an adjudicator and complete a written theory quiz.

Performance Element

Students will prepare one piece to perform for an evaluator. Evaluators will give ratings and written comments to each student. All students earning a Superior Rating will receive medals. Students receiving Excellent and Very Good ratings will receive ribbons.

Music Selections: Students should select one piece to perform for an evaluator based on the time guidelines below. A single movement of a multi-movement work is considered one piece. Works by any composer are eligible for the Festival; however, classical, folk and pedagogical repertoire is encouraged. *(Keyboard entrants: See sample repertoire list to determine division placement for students.)*

Time Constraints:

Keyboard Divisions	
Early Elementary	3 minutes
Elementary	3 minutes
Late Elementary	3 minutes
Early Intermediate	5 minutes
Intermediate	5 minutes
Late Intermediate	5 minutes
Early Advanced	6 minutes
Advanced	6 minutes

Voice, Strings & Percussion Divisions	
Elementary	3 minutes
Intermediate	5 minutes
Advanced	5 minutes

Audition Procedures: Prior to playing students must present the room monitor with an **original** copy of their music for the judge with measures numbered. **No photocopies are permitted** unless accompanied by a letter of authorization from the publisher. Any student who has photocopied music but not a letter of authorization will not be permitted to earn a medal, **no exceptions**.

Students will have an opportunity to test the room's acoustics and/or provided instruments before performing. They should then announce their name, the name of the piece they will perform, and the composer prior to playing.

No audiences are allowed in evaluation or theory quiz rooms, including teachers and parents. Students should note that their choice of appropriate performance attire will affect their rating.

Piano and Voice students must perform from memory to earn a Superior Rating. Students in these divisions who perform with music will still receive written comments from the evaluator, and may earn an Excellent or Very Good rating. Students not performing from memory must have two original copies of their music (one for them and one evaluator's copy).

No cuts are permitted in the solo part. Cuts are permitted in accompaniment parts, and should be clearly marked in the judge's copy.

Instrumental and Voice students are strongly encouraged to have an accompanist. If there is no accompanist, a loss of 5 points will be recorded on the judge's sheet. It is also encouraged to find an accompanist in advance, so that the student and the accompanist receive adequate time to prepare for the audition. There will be no recorded accompaniments allowed during the solo festival.

Theory Element

Following their performance, all students are required to complete a theory-knowledge quiz appropriate to their level of study. See Theory Syllabus for level guidelines. All students scoring 90% or above will earn a Superior Rating and receive medals. Other students will receive participation ribbons.

Students who fail to take a theory quiz will have their performance awards withheld. (Students who have scored a 90% or above on the Level 10 Theory Quiz are exempt from taking future theory quizzes.) **Similarly, students who fail to perform for the evaluator will have their theory award withheld,** unless there are extenuating circumstances (i.e., injury).

Theory quizzes are available in fourteen levels. The levels span from Primer, followed by 1 through 10. In addition, there are 3 transitional levels (3A, 4A, and 5A). Levels 3A, 4A, and 5A cover the same concepts as Levels 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but the concepts are applied to brief musical excerpts. These levels were added because the degree of difficulty increases noticeably between Levels 3, 4, and 5; therefore, it was considered prudent to add intermediate quizzes to give students an opportunity to apply the concepts learned before moving on to a higher level.

Instrument-specific quizzes are available for levels 1-4. Levels 5 and above require standardized musical knowledge. (Refer to Syllabus for specifics.) It is recommended that students who earn a Superior Rating in a level the previous year should enroll in a more advanced level the next year.

All students will receive a medal or ribbon for their theory quiz, to be awarded after the conclusion of the Festival. Teachers may pick up awards for students following the recording and verification of scores.

Other Guidelines

Eligibility: Each teacher may enter only students they are teaching; they may not enter students taught by another teacher. Teachers must be in good standing with the OMTA organization. Teachers wishing to enter students in the 2027 OMTA Solo Festival must pay membership dues of $25.00 by September 15, 2026, or they will be required to pay a nonmember fee of $30.00 upon registering students for the 2027 Solo Festival.

Entries: Entries will be submitted in an online Google form. A link to the 2027 registration form will be provided prior to the registration deadline. Any teacher who has issues using the online form should contact Jan, who will provide paper forms.

Volunteer Requirements: All teachers who enter students in the festival must volunteer. Teacher volunteer availability is included in the online registration. If you are unable to work your assigned time, please arrange for a parent, advanced student or other OMTA teacher to fill in for you. If you are unable to fulfill your work assignment by one of these two methods, you will not be allowed to send students to the OMTA Festival in 2028.

Students may earn community service points by volunteering for the Festival. Please check with your high school students who may need hours for National Honor Society, etc. You may note availability in the online registration.

Scheduling: Please note any scheduling requests on the registration form. Every effort will be made to accommodate requests, but cannot be guaranteed. All scheduling questions and change requests should be addressed to Jan no later than February 23, 2027. No changes shall be made after that time.

Cancellation Policy: Teachers please report cancellations ASAP to Jan Holthus. No refunds will be given.

Accepted Payment Methods:

- Electronic Payment: Studio teachers are encouraged to pay electronically using the link provided upon registration.
- Check: Studio teachers may write a consolidated check for their student participants. No checks from individual students. A $15 charge will be assessed for insufficient funds.

Festival guidelines (including performance and theory level determination), theory practice tests, and sample critique sheets are available online at www.olathemta.org.