

Dear Piano Teacher,

It is time to begin planning the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual WLHS Grade School Piano Festival to be held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Honors recitals will take place on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Thank you to the many piano teachers who have given input and feedback to help improve our Piano Festival.

The Festival will again be open to all students in grades 4 through 8 taught by our WELS Grade School Piano Teachers in the Milwaukee metropolitan area. Use your best judgment, if you have a mature 4<sup>th</sup> grade student who is ready, feel free to enter him/her in the festival, however, please do not feel pressured to do so. Also know that all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be adjudicated by a separate adjudicator who is knowledgeable with their level of experience.

When entering students, the level of experience will be determined by each piano teacher using the following criteria: **Elementary** (Alfred Levels 1-3 and Faber Levels 1-3A), **Intermediate** (Alfred Levels 4 and up, Faber levels 3B and up, and WSMA Class C), **Advanced** (Standard Piano Literature and items from the WSMA Class B & A list—using the WSMA prescribed editions and instructions). Copies of the WSMA Class A, B, & C lists are included with this letter. The festival is designed to encourage the God-given talents of our young piano players at every level.

Students will need to perform one solo selection for an adjudicator. Memorization will be optional. We request that the length of the piece be a maximum of three minutes for the Elementary and Intermediate levels. Advanced Level students may play their entire selection. No scales will be required at this time. Students should perform from an “original” copy of their selection and the adjudicator should also be provided with an “original” copy of the selection.

Every student will receive individual time with the adjudicator following his/her performance and will receive a rating of I, II or III (I being first place). Results will be posted approximately one half hour after a student performs. Student adjudication forms may be picked up by piano teachers at the conclusion of the festival. If you are unable to remain until the end, they will be mailed to you. Medals will be sent to teachers about three weeks after the festival.

Students entered at the Intermediate or Advanced Levels will have an opportunity to be chosen to perform for the Piano Honors Recitals at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Adjudicators will be selecting students of high quality to perform for the recital, which will be indicated with the award of a \*I rating. Due to the impossible task faced by judges in choosing only a handful of students for the Honors Recital, we are scheduling two recitals this year. Students selected for an Honors Recital will be able to choose the recital they perform in. As many of you recall, last year the judges heard numerous outstanding entries and recognized the musicians they felt were deserving of such honors. Their instincts were correct, but we were left with close to forty students to put on a recital. We believe having two recitals will give our judges the flexibility they need to choose all outstanding performances without having a recital that becomes too long. Please encourage all of your students and parents to attend a Sunday afternoon recital performance in the WLHS Auditorium.

Another change instituted this year is one entry form for all solos and ensembles. Teachers are asked to fill out each master form with all student information as indicated. Please feel free to duplicate as many forms as you need. We also ask that teachers send one check (written to WLHS) for all entries. Finally, a form is enclosed for scheduling requests. Note that these requests should be the result of legitimate schedule conflicts and not simply a desire on the part of the musician's family to perform at a certain time of the day. It is challenging to accommodate athletic events and other activities, especially early in the morning and late in the afternoon, and it will be greatly appreciated if special requests be made for unavoidable conflicts only.

We are thankful for the help given by teachers and parents in running the festival. We couldn't do this without our volunteers and teachers! Enclosed with this letter are a parent volunteer form (RECRUIT EARLY AND OFTEN) and a teacher volunteer form. In these days of electronic communication, e-mail addresses are most appreciated. We would like to do all of our communication via e-mail if at all possible.

The WSMA Piano List, a sample adjudication form and a sample packet of information for you to use with your students complete this mailing. Teachers are asked to duplicate all forms needed for your students. You and your students may also access all forms/information on our web site – [www.wlhs.org](http://www.wlhs.org) – by clicking on the Piano Fest page. Registration Fees and Forms are due to WLHS no later than February 15, 2011. You will receive a preliminary festival schedule of your students' times by March 1, 2011. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

May God richly bless your Christmas celebration!!

In His Service,

Marjorie Flanagan  
Fine Arts Department Coordinator  
email: [marjorie.flanagan@wlhs.org](mailto:marjorie.flanagan@wlhs.org)  
Phone: (414)453-4567 ext. 2373

# 2011 WLHS Grade School Piano Festival Information

## 1) What is the Wisconsin Lutheran Grade School Piano Festival?

This is an opportunity for grade school students to play before a judge and receive comments on their performance. This is similar to the WSMA and Federation contests. They will receive oral and written comments and a medal. The ratings for their performance will be I, II, or III (from highest to lowest). Students entered in the Advanced and Intermediate levels will be eligible to be considered for the Piano Honors Recital. Those students who give an outstanding performance are selected by our adjudicators and will be awarded a \*I rating and are invited to perform at an honors recital on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (1:30 and 3:30 p.m.).

## 2) Who is eligible for this?

All piano students from grade 4 through grade 8 who study with a teacher who is a member of a WELS congregation or who teaches piano at a WELS school may enter the festival.

## 3) Where is this held?

Wisconsin Lutheran High School is located in Milwaukee, four blocks north of Hwy. 94 on 84<sup>th</sup> Street, just south of Bluemound Road. Visit [www.wlhs.org](http://www.wlhs.org) for directions.

## 4) When?

The festival will be held Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> between 8:00a.m. and 5:00p.m., with honors recitals on Sunday, March 13 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Each child will receive a specific playing time from their piano teacher.

## 5) What are the costs?

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$8.00 for solos and \$5.00 per person for duets and trios. You are also responsible for providing the judge with an **original copy** of the piece you are performing. If you are playing from memory, you may give the judge your study copy. If you are playing from music, you will need a second copy. **NO PHOTOCOPIES ARE ALLOWED.** We encourage all performers to obey the copyright laws of this country and not photocopy music. The only exception is if you have a copied page to help with page turns.

## 6) What is the purpose of this festival?

We want to encourage our keyboard students to prepare a piece to competition level. This will develop their God-given talents and provide them with valuable experience to prepare them for future performance opportunities.

We want to encourage students in their performance to give their best. The comments by the judge should serve as a reinforcement of their teacher's comments. Sometimes hearing it from another person makes the coaching more effective. We want to encourage students who are showing promise. This will hopefully serve as an encouraging experience to those students who have strong gifts in music.

**7) How does this work?**

Before the festival, number each of the measures on your judge's copy. You will be told by your piano teacher the week before the festival what your time is.

On the day of the festival, you should be at your assigned room 15 minutes before your scheduled time. You will wait in the hall until the room monitor opens the door. You are allowed to listen to other players and others are allowed to listen to you. You may not request the room monitor to empty the room. This is as much for your protection as anything. When it is your time to play, or if no one is there and the judge is waiting, you tell the room monitor who you are. When it is your time to play, give the judge your judge's copy. Make sure you adjust the bench so it is comfortable. Play a few notes (not your whole solo!) so that you can feel what the piano is like. If you are using the sustain pedal, make sure that you try that as well. When your judge says that she/he is ready, you will play your piece. When you are done, it is customary for anyone in the room to give you applause. You are not expected to bow. Take your music and go to the judge's table. You will hear the comments about the performance. Remember to take your judge's copy when you are done. You will then wait where the results are posted. Students selected for the Honors Recital will receive a \*I rating. Honors Recital students should report to the Information Table for instructions and to choose which recital they will attend. Both are free recitals and you are encouraged to invite friends and family to attend. Full results of the Festival will be posted at Headquarters and on our web site - [www.wlhsband.org](http://www.wlhsband.org) .

After the festival, your written comments will be delivered to your teacher so that she/he can talk to you about them.

**8) What should I play?**

For the Piano Festival, no official list of compositions has been required, but it is recommended that you select a piece with your teacher from either the WSMA or the Federation contest list. The Federation list is available in most music stores; the WSMA list is online at [www.wsmamusic.org](http://www.wsmamusic.org). You need to prepare only one piece. Your teacher will indicate the difficulty of your piece on the registration form. There are three categories – Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced. We use the Alfred/Faber Piano Methods Books as a reference point in deciding the difficulty level. Your piece may come from any publisher though – not just Alfred. Generally any pieces equivalent to an Alfred Primer through Level 3/Faber levels 1-3A are considered Elementary. Intermediate starts during Alfred Level 4/Faber 3B and continues through the Bastian Piano Literature Book III and the WSMA Class C list. Advanced repertoire is equivalent to the WSMA Class A & B lists. Most of the students will be in either Elementary or Intermediate.

**9) How are we judged?**

The judges use a standard critique form that rates your performance in several areas. This will include:

Did you play correct notes and rhythms?

Did you play at a good speed – not too fast, not too slow?

Did you use dynamics (louds and softs) and other musical techniques (such as ritardando, staccato or accent)?

If you are using the sustain pedal, was that done well?

Did you have good balance between the hands? Could we hear the melody easily?

Did the notes speak evenly?

Obviously, the more difficult pieces have more to be commented on.

**10) Who are the judges?**

The judges are being selected for their ability to understand the development of the young piano student and their ability to relate and encourage someone of grade school level.

**11) How do we dress?**

This is a performance, and you should dress up for this. The way you present yourself communicates to the judge your attitude about playing. This is especially true for the honors recital. However, if you are using the sustain pedal, make sure that your shoes will work well for this. Try it out before your time. Sometimes high soles prevent you from pedaling well. Jangly bracelets and excessive rings should be avoided so that you can perform at the top of your ability. Make sure that nails have been trimmed so you can use good hand position and not have any distracting sounds occur during your performance.

If you have any further questions, please see your piano teacher or contact Mrs. Marjorie Flanagan, Piano Festival Coordinator - (414)453-4567 ext. 2373 or email: [marjorie.flanagan@wlhs.org](mailto:marjorie.flanagan@wlhs.org)

*Special thanks to Mrs. Valerie Floeter for developing this information packet.*

# 2011 WLHS Grade School Piano Festival

## Saturday, March 12

### TEACHER VOLUNTEER FORM

*Please indicate your first, second, or third choice of tasks. Teachers will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis. Your assistance in the success of the Piano Festival is greatly appreciated!*

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scheduling: 1-2 people needed**

**I Can Help! \_\_\_\_\_**

Scheduling will take place between February 1 and March 1. Computer skills are necessary, but training is included! Work will be done at WLHS at your convenience, but may also be done at home if computer programs are compatible. This task will also involve sending communications to teachers when scheduling is complete and making schedule changes as they occur.

**Hospitality Room: 2-3 people needed**

**I Can Help! \_\_\_\_\_**

This task includes purchasing snacks, beverages, and lunches for the judges and snacks and beverages for teachers. Reimbursement for food items is given. The task also involves the set-up and clean-up of the Hospitality Room on the day of the Festival.

**Festival Set-Up: 5+ people needed**

**I Can Help! \_\_\_\_\_**

This task includes preparing the rooms for judging on Friday, March 12 some time after school and making sure all judges forms/envelopes are in order and ready to go on Saturday.

**Festival Clean-Up: 5+ people needed**

**I Can Help! \_\_\_\_\_**

This task includes returning all judging rooms to order immediately after the Festival ends.

**Honors Concert Program: 1 person needed**

**I Can Help! \_\_\_\_\_**

This task includes typing the Honors Recital program and having it duplicated prior to the concert on Saturday evening. Reimbursement for duplicating is given. Requires computer skills. The program may be done at WLHS on Saturday while the Festival progresses.

**Please return this form by February 15 to:**

Marjorie Flanagan  
WLHS Grade School Piano Festival  
330 N. Glenview Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53213

**Wisconsin Lutheran High School  
Grade School Piano Festival  
March 12, 2011**

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Piano Solos \_\_\_\_\_ \* \$ 8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Duets \_\_\_\_\_ \* \$ 10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Trios \_\_\_\_\_ \* \$ 15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose one check made payable to **Wisconsin Lutheran High School**. Please send this form, all solo and ensemble registration forms, and teacher and parent volunteer forms to Grade School Piano Festival, Wisconsin Lutheran High School, 330 N. Glenview Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53213.

All entries are due on February 15, 2011.

# WLHS Grade School Piano Festival

PIANO  
SOLO

<b>AWARD DIVISION</b>	<b>*I</b>	Interm. & Adv.	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>
	35-33		35-25	24-15	14-5

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

<b>TONE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5</b>	<b>4</b> <b>3</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1</b>
_____Pts	Characteristic tone for style of piece.  LH & RH are well balanced.  Melody is easily perceived.	Characteristic tone most of the time.  Balance is affected in difficult passages.  Melody is brought out except in a few measures.	Characteristic tone demonstrated some of the time.  Balance is fair.  Melody is difficult to perceive some of the time.	Tone is not characteristic of the piece.  Little attention to balance.  Melody is difficult to hear.
<b>EXPRESSION</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5</b>	<b>4</b> <b>3</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1</b>
_____Pts	Very musical, sensitive performance.  Expression is natural and highly effective.  Outstanding dynamic range.	Some passages lack accurate phrasing.  Good use of dynamics.  Quite musical.	Phrasing varies from what is written.  Dynamic range is narrow.  Lacks finesse and polish.	Dynamics are not controlled or are uncharacteristic for the piece.  Phrasing not observed.
<b>ACCURACY</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5</b>	<b>4</b> <b>3</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1</b>
_____Pts	Outstanding precision at all times.  All notes, rhythms performed accurately and stylistically correct.	Errors infrequent and corrected quickly.  Few rhythmic problems.  Some problems in technical passages.	Some incorrect notes and rhythmic patterns.  Difficult passages weak.  16th notes and/or triplets are not even.	Numerous inaccurate pitches and rhythmic passages.  Pauses interrupt the flow.  Difficulty playing 16th and/or triplets evenly.
<b>INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5</b>	<b>4</b> <b>3</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1</b>
_____Pts	Tempo is characteristic of the piece.  Ornaments executed stylistically accurate.  Style is appropriate and very well done.	Tempo is appropriate.  Ornaments are well done overall, but a few cause interruption in the pulse.  Good attention to style most of the time.	Clarity of tempo and pulse fluctuates.  Ornaments cause tempo fluctuations.  Understanding of style still developing.	Tempo is not appropriate or not well maintained.  Ornaments not played.  Little attention to style.
<b>TECHNIQUE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5</b>	<b>4</b> <b>3</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1</b>
_____Pts	Articulation and ornaments are executed accurately.  Posture and hand position are correct.  Excellent use of pedal.	Most articulations are observed.  Weaknesses shown in some difficult sections.  Pedaling and hand position are appropriate most of the time.	Articulation fluctuates.  Hand position and posture are good. Fingers are not always curved.  Some pedaling is blurred.	Articulation not always observed.  Hand position and posture are fair.  Pedaling is inappropriate.
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT</b>				

**Total Pts**



