2026 MARGARET B. DAVIS MEMORIAL PIANO COMPETITION / MBD

Festival Committee: Dr.Umida Avloni, Chair; Janice Clark, Co-Chair; Paul Agricola, Chris Bradley, Jennifer Dondrup Grant, Karen Fournier, Jeanette Tietze, John Metz.

Location and Dates:

Location- First Presbyterian Church, 72 Kensington Road, San Anselmo, CA
Competition - Saturday, May 16th, 12:00 to 6:00 PM;
Winners Recital and Award Ceremony - Saturday, May 30, 6:30 to 8:30 PM;
Application Deadline - April 1.
Performances schedule info - May 1, 2026.

Registration/Dates:

Online application is available here: https://www.mtacmarin.org/page4
All completed application forms and fees (one check per studio) should be received by the Chair of the MBD competition by April 1. Late applications will not be accepted. Once the application is received, no change of repertoire will be allowed. Students may apply for as many categories as they wish with additional fees required for each category. All entry fees are nonrefundable.

Procedure:

Students will perform in a recital setting with 2 adjudicators giving individualized ratings. Performers must bring an original score with measures numbered for the judges to use. Scores will be returned after the performance. If a participant does not bring the score, the judges will hear the student play, but no comments or prizes will be awarded.

Competition Entry rules:

1. The competition is open to Marin County students who study with any MTAC Marin Branch teacher;
2. After paying the initial application fee, the student my register for as many levels and/or categories they wish, with an additional registration fee for each additional level and/or category.
3. MBD competition has a right to combine or cancel events depending on the number applicants;
4. Memorization of each piece is required;
5. Competition results will be announced on the day of the auditions. Prizes will be awarded at the winner's recitals. A monetary award will be given to all first prize winners.
6. In order to receive their reward, all 1st prize winners of the SOLO categories and 1st and 2nd prize winners of the SHOWCASE categories must perform at the Winners recital.

Categories and Repertoire requirements for SOLO and SHOWCASE groups.

A. SOLO Categories:

Student of any age, level, or instrument including voice must performs 1 piece, created by a professional composer. No simplified arrangements or transcriptions are allowed.

Levels and styles of the chosen piece is as follows:

1. Baroque/ Classical Junior (CM levels 1-4); Time limit – 3min;
2. Baroque/ Classical Intermediate; (CM levels 5-7); Time limit – 5min;
3. Baroque/ Classical Advanced; (CM levels 8-10); Time limit – 8min;
4. Romantic/ Contemporary Junior; (CM levels 1-4); Time limit – 3min;
5. Romantic/ Contemporary Intermediate; (levels 5-7); Time limit – 5min;
6. Romantic/ Contemporary Advanced; (CM levels 8-10); Time limit – 8min;

A committee has a right to move a student to a different level if the student's piece is of a lower or higher level than indicated on the application. .

B. SHOWCASE Categories (For Piano Students Only)

A contestant must perform 2 pieces of different music styles. No simplified arrangements or transcriptions are allowed. The categories are as follows:

1. Junior: 9 years old or younger; Time limit – 7min
2. Intermediate: 10-12 years old; Time limit – 9min
3. Senior: 13-15 years old; Time limit – 11min
4. Advanced: 16+ years old; Time limit – 13min

If a student exceeds the time limit in any category, judges may stop the performance. The interruption will not affect the judge's grading of the performance.

Fees:

An initial application fee of $50 is required for each contestant. This application fee is a onetime only fee regardless of the number of categories/pieces a student might register.

The fees for SOLO categories cover one piece for one level only. If a student wishes to play two or more pieces in any SOLO category, he/she will be charged an additional fee for each piece added. The fees for SHOWCASE categories cover both pieces. Here are the category fees:

1.SOLO Junior - $25
2. SOLO Intermediate - $30
3.SOLO Advanced - $40
4. SHOWCASE Junior - $35
5. SHOWCASE Intermediate - $40
6. SHOWCASE Senior: - $45
7. SHOWCASE Advanced - $45

Teacher's responsibilities:

Teachers are responsible to check students' application forms and collect the fees. Fees are submitted by the teachers as one studio check paid to the order of Marin MTAC and send to MBD Chair. Deadline for payment is midnight April 3, 2026. Any late payments result in the student(s) being dropped from the competition. All teachers who enter students will be expected to help at the competition. Teachers who enter a large number of students will be required to help at more than one recital. If a teacher absolutely cannot attend or work, they may ask a parent or reliable high school student to help in their place. For questions or further information, please email avlonimusic@comcast.net or jblegend@aol.com.