



*Louisiana Federation
of
Music Clubs*



**Junior Division
PROCEDURES FOR
State Junior Convention
And Competition**

2021- Covid Modifications

Dedicated

...to the Senior members
...who give tirelessly of their time and talent
...in order to assist and encourage our Juniors

Compiled and edited by the Junior Advisory Board:

LFMC President	LaDonna Alexander
LFMC Competition and Awards Chairman	Melanie Perez
LFMC Junior Division Chairman, Junior Convention Chairman	Irene Vile
LFMC Junior Piano Chairman	Melanie Perez
LFMC Junior Convention Voice Chairman	Bonnie Knowles
LFMC String Chairman	(vacant)
LFMC Festivals Chairman	Kay Hawthorne

Louisiana Federation of Music Clubs homepage: www.LFMC-music.org

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Section 1.

The Purpose of the Junior Division

- To bring together young people for regular group study of music, for performance before others, and for social enjoyment;
- To train future club leaders;
- To cultivate courteous and appreciative audiences;
- To stimulate interest in creative music;
- To provide incentive for high standards of performance through festival events and the Federation Cup Award;
- To encourage service through music;
- To broaden the vision and the ability of members through understanding of, and cooperation with, the State and National goals.

Section 2.

JUNIOR CONVENTION COMPETITION CASH AWARDS for 2021

<i>Event</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Piano Solo	Very Difficult 1 thru Musically Advanced 2	\$400	Hall Piano Company
Piano Solo	Difficult 1 and Difficult 2	\$200	Hall Piano Company
Piano Solo	Moderately Difficult 2 and 3	\$200	Metairie Music Club
Piano Solo	Moderately Difficult 1	\$100	Metairie Music Club
Piano Solo	Medium Class	\$100	Mrs. Joy Harvey
Piano Solo	Elementary 3 and 4	\$100	Mr. and Mrs. Mark Vile
Piano Hymn Playing	Classes 1 and 2	\$100	Lori and Glenn Shurr
Piano Hymn Playing	Classes 3 and 4	\$150	Mr. and Mrs. Glynn Rhinehart
Piano Hymn Playing	Class 5	\$200	Charlotte Davis Parrott Endowment
Piano American Patriotic and Folk	Medium thru Moderately Difficult 3	\$100	A Friend of LFMC
Piano American Patriotic and Folk	Difficult 1 thru Advanced	\$100	Junior Counselors Club of Baton Rouge
Piano Duet	Very Difficult 1 thru Musically Advanced 2	\$400	The Music Club of Baton Rouge
Piano Duet	Difficult 1 and Difficult 2	\$200	Ching Song's Piano Studio
Piano Duet	Moderately Difficult 2 and 3	\$200	Junior Counselors Club of Baton Rouge
Piano Duet	Medium and Moderately Difficult 1	\$200	Mrs. Kay Hawthorne
Piano Duet	Elementary 1 thru 4	\$100	Mrs. Kay Hawthorne
Piano Concerto	Senior	\$400	Hall Piano Company
Piano Concerto	Junior 2 and Junior 3	\$300	Greater New Orleans Music Club
Vocal Solo, Art Song	Musically Advanced 1 thru 3	\$400	Open
Vocal Solo, Art Song	Senior 1 thru Senior 3	\$300	Edith Kilgore Kirkpatrick
Vocal Solo, Art Song	Junior 1 thru Junior 3	\$100	Open
Vocal Solo, Musical Theater	Musically Advanced 1 thru 3	\$400	Betty Martinez Thibodaux Memorial
Vocal Solo, Musical Theater	Senior 1 thru Senior 3	\$300	Metairie Music Club
Vocal Solo, Musical Theater	Junior 1 thru Junior 3	\$100	Open
String Solo	Medium thru Advanced 2	\$150	Open
String Concerto	Junior 2 thru Senior	\$150	Baton Rouge Music Club and LFMC

Sponsorships for the various awards will be accepted and encouraged from individuals, clubs, businesses

or other appropriate groups. Donors' names will be published in the Junior Convention Program and announced at the awards presentation ceremony. **To date some sponsors have not acknowledged participation for 2021. Some awards may not be funded or fully funded this year.**

Rules for Cash Awards: For 2021 only, cash awards may be divided if a tie vote occurs.

1. Judges have the discretion to withhold distribution of the cash award if they deem none of the competitors are qualified. A competitor may win the First Place in a class but not be automatically given the cash award.
2. Only one cash award is given for all of the classes in a Division.
3. For awards with multiple classes, the highest class does not automatically receive the cash award.
4. The rulings of the Judges are final.

First Place Winners and Honorable Mention Awards in each Class

First Place trophy and Honorable Mention medals in all events **will be shipped to their stated Area Festivals Chairman.** Judges are **not required** to name a winner in every class but **may** name one First Place and one or more Honorable Mention winners in each class. Upon the request of the judges, additional honorable mentions may be awarded with the approval of the LFMC State President, State Junior Counselor and State Festivals Chairman. An Honorable Mention may be awarded without naming a First Place winner.

Awards Ceremonies – There will be no Awards Ceremony for 2021- all winners names will be posted on the LFMC website.

This ceremony will take place immediately after all judging has taken place and the necessary tabulations have been processed. **Awards normally given out during the ceremony will be shipped directly to performers' Area Festivals Chairman. Due to Covid and shipping expenses, changes in the style of awards maybe be necessary because of availability and costs.**

PLEASE NOTE: All students receiving awards on stage are required to wear their performance attire. Casual clothing such as tee-shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., will not be permitted on stage.

This ceremony will include: **N/A 2021**

- * Announcement of First Place and Honorable Mention in all classes
- * Announcement of all LFMC State Award Winners that are in attendance - Junior Composers, National Music Week Essay Contest, PPSCA, Bevill, and Veron award winners (see LFMC web site for information on these competitions).
- * Announcement of Junior Convention Cash Winners.
- * Announcement of newly elected Junior Officers. **No elections will be held.**
- * Installment of newly elected Junior Officers.
- * Presentation of 60-, 75- and 90-Point Federation Cups.
- * Presentation of 12-year Consecutive Superior Certificates.

Competition Award Winners Performance

Top Financial Award Winners may be asked to perform at the following year's Junior Convention Awards Ceremony.

Students who win multiple financial awards in the current year will only be invited back to perform in one event at the following year's Awards Ceremony at State Junior Convention.

Section 3.

State Junior Convention and Competition

The Louisiana State Junior Convention and Competition is a Louisiana Federation of Music Clubs event held annually following the Area Festivals. It is both a competitive, with winner and honorable mention awards possible in each class, and a non-competitive participation. Entrants under 19 years of age as of the date of their area Festival, and who have received a Superior rating in an event at the Area Festivals are eligible to compete at the State Convention in that event. Any registered Junior Member may participate as a non-competitor. Teachers and Counselors must send applications and fees for the State Junior Convention by the published deadline date.

LFMC Junior Convention Fee Schedule

Entry Fees: 1 - 4 events	\$30.00
Entry Fees: 5 or more events	\$60.00
Incorrect Entry on application	\$5.00
Non-competing participant	\$10.00 n/a 2021
Convention Tee Shirt (optional)	\$12.00 n/a 2021
Convention Music Bag (optional).....	\$10.00 n/a 2021

Junior Convention Committee for 2021

Chairman	Irene Vile
Treasurer	Mark Vile
Piano Events Chairman	Melanie Perez
Vocal Events Chairman	Bonnie Knowles
String Events Chairman	(vacant)
Trophies	Bonnie Knowles
Junior Advisor	Joy Harvey
Merchandise	Linda LaFleur n/a 2021
UNO Coordinator	Robin Williams n/a 2021
Registration	Ellen Bordelon n/a 2021
Hospitality	Mary Monsted n/a 2021
Awards Ceremony Coordinator	Joy Harvey n/a 2021

Section 4. General Requirements

The Junior Convention will be held in the Spring following Area Festivals.

Junior Convention participants must enter under the same Junior Club Counselor (Teacher) under whom they entered the Junior Festival auditions.

Counselors and teachers of federated Junior Music Clubs with entrants participating at Area Festival Centers and the LFMC Junior Convention are required to hold membership in an active Senior Club (Art. IV, Bylaws of LFMC).

All Rules and Guidelines issued in the current NFMC Festivals Bulletin will be followed by the LFMC Junior Convention (i.e. memorization, age requirements, pairing of duet partners, repeats etc.)

Teachers may not charge their students in excess of the entry fee established by LFMC. Teachers who charge an entry fee in excess of the established fee will have their membership suspended.

To attend the Junior Convention, a Junior Counselor must submit a Teacher's List prior to Convention Entry Deadline. Any students competing must also submit a copy of their current, signed Festivals rating sheet, for each event entered. Payment of fees must accompany the Entry Form.

All entry forms for the Junior Convention must be typed or computer generated. Hand written applications **will not** be accepted. Scanned applications sent by e-mail also **will not** be accepted.

ENTRY DEADLINE – April 23- includes: Teacher's List, Parent Applications and YouTube link submissions. Consult the instructions for the Application form.

All Applications submitted after April 23rd., will not be accepted. *Teacher's List Application Entry Forms should be submitted immediately after your area Festivals.*

Younger Juniors (12 and under), should be accompanied by an adult at all times. **N/A**

Junior Counselors are not to contact LFMC either by phone or email concerning receipt of Junior applications. Upon receipt of a Teacher's List Application an email will be sent to the Junior Counselor.

Information pertaining to the Junior Convention will be published online at www.lfmc-music.org. It is the responsibility of Junior Club Counselors (Teachers) to disseminate information regarding the Junior Convention to parents and Juniors. Any questions regarding the Junior Convention **must** be addressed to the State Junior Convention Chairman by the teacher.

A Certificate is given to each Junior attending the State Junior Convention. Certificates will be in Teachers' packets at the registration desk. **For 2021 Teacher packets will be shipped to local Area Festivals Chairman.**

There is a strict policy of No Refund of entry fees past the deadline for the LFMC Junior Convention.

Junior Counselors and participants must sign in at the registration desk the morning of the Junior Convention. **-n/a 2021**

ADJUDICATION

Competitions will be judged by a panel of three judges, whose decision is final. No comment sheets will be provided to the Entrants. Teachers, parents, and accompanists may not serve as judges due to scheduling conflicts.

SCHEDULE OF AUDITIONS **n/a- 2021**

Parents and students should arrive at the Registration Desk 30 minutes before session times. Each student will be assigned a room number for their audition. The room doors will be opened to allow parents and students to enter 5 minutes prior to session time. These are open auditions. Arrival to the assigned room should be 15 minutes prior to the assigned **session** time given and check in with the Monitor for that room. Once group is in the room, doors will close and will not be reopened. **ONLY PRE-APPROVED LATE ARRIVALS RESULTING FROM SCHEDULING CONFLICTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE AUDITION ROOM AFTER THE DOORS HAVE CLOSED.** Unless there is a second group made up of the same event, same level, same judges, same room, the student will have missed the opportunity to compete. Please note that a second group for any given level will be unlikely for this year.

Only competitors with conflicting auditions may enter or leave a room, doing so between performances. Any potential conflicts in schedules should be brought to the attention of the Chairman of the event, the Monitor Chairman, and the Room Auditor.

SELECTION TO BE PERFORMED

Entrants will perform only the Festivals Required Piece at the Junior Convention. The Required Piece must be the same one performed in the Area Festival for which a Superior rating was earned. Accompaniment is required when called for by the score. In vocal events, required selections must come from the arrangement specified in the NFMC Festivals Bulletin. Juniors competing in an event **MUST** enter a class that represents their performance level. The required selection in the Festival Bulletin cannot be arranged or revised.

MEMORIZATION

All events require memorization with the exception of piano duets, hymn playing, and patriotic/folk.

ACCOMPANISTS

Accompanists are the responsibility of the teacher. Accompanists should be listed on the Teacher Application. Junior Convention scheduling **CAN NOT** be made to accommodate accompanists. No Accompanists should prompt, direct, or lead the competitor. Refer to specific Division requirements (Piano, String, Vocal) concerning accompanists.

PROVIDE ORIGINAL SCORE **n/a 2021 – all judging will be without music scores due to copyright regulations.**

An original score of the required composition must be provided for the judges (see special instructions for vocalists). Hand-copied or photocopied music is prohibited. Electronically produced scores must include written permission from the publisher. **No photocopied music will be allowed in the audition room unless accompanied by written permission from the publisher.**

Accompanists who use illegal photocopied music will result in the disqualification of the entrant. Scores bought through an internet source must have an official notation on the music indicating purchase by the person using it or a receipt confirming purchase. Copied music which is permanently out-of-print must be accompanied by written consent from the publisher. Accompanists may copy pages to facilitate difficult page turns but must also have an original score.

FAITHFULNESS TO THE SCORE

All events require strict adherence to the score. Embellished accompaniments will result in disqualification. (See additional pertinent details for the Vocal Division.)

APPEARANCE

Competition entrants are expected to dress appropriately for their audition, neither too formally nor too casually.

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

1. Interrupting auditions. Teachers or parents who interrupt an audition will result in the disqualification of that Junior. A teacher who will not permit a Junior to audition, unless the teacher is present, will result in the disqualification of that Junior.
2. Using an electronic device. No audio or video recording of any performance is allowed. All devices must be turned off and put out of sight.
3. Failure to comply with NFMC Festivals Bulletin Rules.
4. Prompting. No prompting of any kind will be permitted. Any attempt to do so will result in disqualification of the entrant.
5. **Failure to adhere to rules for YouTube submissions**

Recommendations for Younger Children **n/a 2021**

1. Audition sessions are not recommended as an appropriate activity for children under 4.
2. Provide an additional adult to attend to keep younger children outside the audition room, while parent is in the room with performer
3. If an adult cannot be found, then Parent is responsible for maintaining absolute silence during ALL performances.
4. Session run from 30 minutes to 1 hour., child must be still and silent.
5. All electronic devices must be stored away, so they can NOT be used as babysitting device. I took pt. 6 out altogether and made #7 point 6.
6. Any disruptive child should be removed from audition room, between performances, UNLESS judges stop the audition and ask parents to leave room immediately! If an audition is in process, it is the judges discretion to stop the performance. Student should continue audition unless stopped by judge.

CONFERRING WITH JUDGES

No teacher, parent, or entrant may confer with the judges nor may the judges talk to the entrants or teachers. Talking to the judges or making audible comments during or between performances will result in being asked to leave the room, or, in extreme cases, disqualification of the entrant. Any questions must be directed to the Junior Division Chairman and/or the State President, **not** to the judges or to other members of the audience.

DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.

Section 5.

COMPETITION EVENTS

Piano Division:

Piano Solo Event

The Piano Solo Event will include **only** the NFMC Piano Solo Event. Juniors will perform their Required Solo Festivals Piece. Juniors must progress to a higher class according to the NFMC Festivals Bulletin rules.

Senior Piano Concerto Event

The Senior Piano Concerto Event auditions will be held in the following format. If five (5) or fewer participate then the student will perform the entire concerto with no preliminary round. If there are more than five (5) entrants, there will be a preliminary round of a five-minute audition per entrant. The entrant will choose which portions of the concerto the entrant will perform. At the close of the preliminary round the judges will choose up to five entrants to compete in the final audition. The results of the preliminary round will be posted at least one hour prior to the final audition. Entrants will perform the complete movement of the concerto in the final audition. The winners and honorable mentions will be determined by the final audition. The time and place of the final audition will be published in the Junior Convention schedule. It is the responsibility of each entrant to furnish their own second pianist. Please review with the accompanists their schedule prior to the event to make sure there are no conflicts between students or accompanists in other Divisions. Junior Convention schedules CAN NOT be made to accommodate accompanists. See additional information concerning accompanists under **Section 4 - Accompanists**.

Junior II and III Piano Concerto Event

The Junior Piano II and III Concerto Event auditions will be held in the following format. If five (5) or fewer participate then the student will perform the entire concerto with no preliminary round. If there are more than five (5), there will be a preliminary round of a four-minute audition per entrant. The entrant will choose which portions of the concerto the entrant will perform. At the close of the preliminary round the judges will choose up to five entrants to compete in the final audition. The results of the preliminary round will be posted at least one hour prior to the final audition. Entrants will perform the complete movement of the concerto in the final audition. The winners and honorable mentions will be determined by the final audition. The time and place of the final audition will be published in the Junior Convention schedule. It is the responsibility of each entrant to furnish their own second pianist. Please review with the accompanists their schedule prior to the event to make sure there are no conflicts between students or accompanists in other Divisions. Junior Convention schedules CAN NOT be made to accommodate accompanists. See additional information concerning accompanists under **Section 4 - Accompanists**.

Piano Ensemble Event – Duets

Judges must be furnished an original score of the published music. Participants must be the same team members as in the local festivals for which they received a Superior rating. Memorization is not required. **No partnership substitutions will be allowed. No person may compete on more than one team per event. Duet partners are required to have participated as soloists in the 2021 Piano Festivals but are not required to participate in the Junior Convention Competition as soloists. (This is a LFMC Junior Convention rule.) Duet partners, NOT participating in the Solo competition must also submit their 2021 Solo Rating Sheet from Festivals to validate duet partnering rules- NFMC Bulletin, pg.6, 88, 210, 212, 228 , etc.**

Hymn Playing Event

Only the hymn listed as the required piece, in the required key as stated in the current Festivals Bulletin will be heard. In Primary levels, one verse of each hymn will be played as written. In Classes I-V, there will be an introduction, one verse, and a Plagal Amen only if one is written in the score. Follow Festivals rules in Bulletin.

American Patriotic/Folk Song Event

Only the required piece listed in Festivals Bulletin will be heard even if the choice piece is listed in the Festivals Bulletin. This event is limited to piano solo.

Vocal Division:

EVENTS

Vocal Solo - Art Song
Vocal Solo - Musical Theatre
Vocal Duet - Art Song
Vocal Duet - Musical Theatre

(NOTE: Please do not utilize props or costume pieces for Musical Theatre. These are vocal performance events.)

SELECTIONS

Selection to be performed must be the required piece from the NFMC Festival Bulletin and the same piece that was performed at the area Festival at which the superior rating was earned. A copy of the rating sheet must be included with the registration form.

FAITHFULNESS TO THE SCORE

Selection must be the same arrangement that is specified in the NFMC Festivals Bulletin. This required selection may not be altered in any way **unless specified in the printed score** (e.g., optional melody line). Cuts are allowed if they are indicated in the original printed score. For selections that have 3 or more verses entrants will sing the first and last verses only.

PROVIDE AN ORIGINAL SCORE-n/a 2021

Electronically purchased (downloaded) music is acceptable provided that the authorized user's name is printed on the pages. Accompanists **must** play from original scores. No photocopies or hand written copies will be allowed. Page turners are permitted. See General Procedures for details about out-of-print music. Judges will not be provided scores, only 1 edition of score is necessary.

MEMORIZATION

All selections must be memorized.

PROMPTING

No prompting of any kind will be permitted. Any attempt to do so will result in disqualification of the entrant. Singers should direct performances to the judges rather than to the audience.

APPEARANCE

Entrants are expected to dress appropriately for a performance. Please...no flip-flops, T-shirts, jeans, bare midriffs, excessively short skirts, etc.

ENSEMBLE – DUETS

Participants must be the same team members as in Festival, no substitutes will be allowed. Memory is required. Published score need not be provided to judges.

ACCOMPANISTS

Chairman can provide a list of accompanists, but it is teacher responsibility to contact and make arrangements at additional costs with the accompanists. Accompanists must be provided an original score. Please review with the accompanists their schedule prior to the event to make sure there are no conflicts between students or accompanists in other Divisions. Junior Convention schedules CANNOT be made to accommodate accompanists. See additional information concerning accompanists under Section 4-Accompanists

FOR 2021 ONLY: Pre-recorded accompaniments will be allowed. This includes CDs and pre-recordings of a live accompanist. Recordings must be PIANO ONLY---no orchestral or enhanced tracks will be allowed.

String Division: Not Available at this time

Events:

String Solo:

All classes: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Harp, Guitar (Classical and Pick Style). Students compete with their Required Festivals Solo piece with which they made a Superior.

String Concerto:

The String Concerto Event auditions will be held in the following format. If five (5) or fewer participate, then the student will perform the entire concerto with no preliminary round. If there are more than five (5) entrants, there will be a preliminary round of a five-minute audition per entrant. The entrant will choose which portions of the concerto the entrant will perform. At the close of the preliminary round the judges will choose up to five entrants to compete in the final audition. The results of the preliminary round will be posted at least one hour prior to the final audition. Entrants will perform the complete movement of the concerto in the final audition. The winners and honorable mentions will be determined by the final audition. The time and place of the final audition will be published in the Junior Convention schedule. It is the responsibility of each entrant to furnish their own second pianist.

Tuning:

A 5-minute group tuning will take place in the room prior to each audition grouping. It is recommended that all teachers and parents be available to help expedite this procedure. A 1-minute additional tuning will be allowed right before the individual audition. Additional tuning may be done outside the room prior to entering.

Accompanists:

If the score calls for an accompanist then a live accompanist must be provided. No recorded accompaniments or substituted instruments will be allowed. An original score must be provided for accompanists. Accompanists are the responsibility of the teacher. Please review with the accompanists their schedule prior to the event to make sure there are no conflicts between students or accompanists in other Divisions. Junior Convention schedules CAN NOT be made to accommodate accompanists. See additional information concerning accompanists under Section 4-Accompanists

Instruments:

It is recommended students bring an extra set of strings for their instruments. There will be no opportunity for any repairs on bows, bridges, etc.

Section 6.**THE JUNIOR CONVENTION MEETING - n/a 2021**

The **Junior Convention Meeting** is for Juniors only. This meeting will be held during the lunch period on the day of the Junior Convention. Parents may observe meeting, sitting in back of room. Candidacy to serve as a Junior officer is open to any student in grades 8, 9, 10, or 11. Term of office is for one year, from Junior Convention to next Junior Convention. Teachers should encourage their capable/older students to run for office. Campaigning may be done throughout the morning providing there is no disturbance of auditions. Students should prepare a 2-minute Campaign Speech to be presented during the meeting. Winner will be determined by plurality of vote. In case of tie votes, the runoff will be between the 2 with the largest number of votes.

JUNIOR OFFICERS - n/a 2021**STATE JUNIOR PRESIDENT:**

1. Oversees and runs Junior Convention meeting, working under the authority of the LFMC State Junior Advisor.
2. Assists Junior Convention Chairman in assigned capacity
3. Submits information of interest to Juniors for social media under the oversight of a Junior Advisor.
4. Assists at the 2020 awards ceremony and will serve in leadership roles at next year's State Junior Convention.

STATE JUNIOR TREASURER:

1. Assists with T-Shirt sales.
2. Assists at the 2020 awards ceremony and will serve in leadership roles at next year's State Junior Convention.

STATE JUNIOR SECRETARY

1. Records minutes of the Junior meeting, retains one copy and submits one copy to LFMC State Senior President and one copy to State Junior President.
2. Assists at the 2020 awards ceremony and will serve in leadership roles at next year's State Junior Convention.

All Juniors interested in running for Junior Office may pick up an application from their Junior Club Counselor (Teacher) available online or at the Junior Convention registration desk prior to the election. The deadline for filing for an office will be stated in the Convention program booklet. The time and place of meeting will be posted at the registration desk. Applications may be submitted with Parent/Student Registrations, or any time up to one hour prior to the Junior Meeting

Section 7.

LOCATION: **n/a 2021**

University of New Orleans, Performing Arts Center
2000 Lakeshore Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70122

A campus map is easily accessed by using Google or other mapping websites; search for “University of New Orleans.”

TENTATIVE GENERAL SCHEDULE (*Subject to scheduling constraints*): **n/a 2021**

7:30 am	–	Registration begins:	Performing Arts Center Foyer
8:30 am	–	12:00 pm	Auditions
12:00 pm	–	1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	–	2:00 pm	Junior Meeting – Recital Hall – First Floor
2:00 pm	–	4:00 pm	Awards Ceremony – Recital Hall – First Floor

AUDITIONS: All in the Performing Arts Center **n/a-2021**

Room numbers will be provided on published schedules.

HOSPITALITY: **n/a 2021**

Food Service will not be available for teachers, parents, and students on the campus. There are several fast food options available on Elysian Fields Avenue or other nearby streets. Housing is available at local hotels/motels should you need to arrive on Friday night.

The Junior Convention and Competition Committee looks forward to another exciting year for our Juniors and their families. We are working hard to provide a unique experience that will challenge and inspire our young musicians of the future to perform at their very best with rewards that encourage them to continue in their pursuit of musical excellence.