

Dear NOMTA and NSMTA members,

We are reaching out to you with details about the 2026 Piano Rally which will again combine the New Orleans and Northshore districts. We enjoyed working together as a team of districts last year, and look forward to another great year! Below you will find information for the 2026 Piano Rally:

All correspondence should be directed to nolanorthshorepianorally@gmail.com and not to Michelle or Stephanie's personal email address. We both have access to this account and will monitor it regularly to answer questions and communicate. Please add this email address to your address book so you do not miss any correspondence.

Please carefully review all syllabus updates by downloading the latest version of the LMTA Rally syllabus that can be found at:

<https://lmta.org/rally/>

You can also find sample practice written tests at the link above.

Please note that all Northshore and New Orleans students will be competing as one district. If the number of students in a level exceeds the published group size in the LMTA Rally Syllabus, then another group will be added to the level. For reference, levels split once a group reaches the following number of participants:

Prep A—20 • Prep B---18 • Level I---16
Level II—14 • Level III---12 • Level IV---12

All students who participate in all 4 phases of rally and are in the level in accordance with their school grade will be eligible for their medals, performance awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd place), Outstanding Achievement and to qualify for the Torgrimson-Swanzy competition.

All students should be registered using the online piano rally database at <https://www.rally-lmta.org/lmtarallydb.php>

ALL students are to be registered for the NEW ORLEANS district regardless of the district where they are taught. The database has been set up so that all students registered in the New Orleans district will be competitive there so all Northshore students will be correctly registered there. NORTHSHORE TEACHERS---PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER ANY STUDENTS IN THE NORTHSHORE DISTRICT.

If you have a transfer student who needs to be added to your student list in the database please email Carla Breaux at carlabreaux@aol.com. DO NOT add a transfer student who has previously participated in rally yourself. This will eliminate the student's history and their medals will begin at zero again.

You may add any new students yourself using the "Add student" feature on the database. Please log into your account as soon as possible to make sure you have access. If you are teacher new to rally, contact Carla Breaux and she will set up your account.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday, March 20th—Online Database Registration Deadline (All students must be registered by the end of this day online)

Tuesday, March 31st—Repertoire Forms Due. You may choose to submit these on the 20th as well but as a courtesy you may wait until March 31st to submit your literature form. HOWEVER, if your literature does not fit the requirements, you will have very little time to make a change so please carefully read all requirements in the rally syllabus.

Friday, April 17th—Written test for all levels given on the Northshore, Location TBA.

Saturday, April 11th—Written test for all levels given in New Orleans. Location TBA.

Saturday, April 18th—Performance, Keyboard Skills and Sight Reading events held at Loyola University, New Orleans for ALL students.

Students may choose to test on the Northshore or the Southshore for their convenience. We will follow up to find out where your students will plan to test so we can have proper materials at each location.

ALL CHECKS should be made payable to Northshore Music Teachers Association. Entry fees are \$40/student. Please send one check for all of your entries.

All NOMTA teachers should submit 2 copies of Form 4 (Teachers List), adjudication forms, and payment to Stephanie Screen at 1034 Roselawn Street, Metairie, LA 70001.

All NSMTA teachers should submit these same forms and payment to Michelle Strain at 59425 North Harrison Road, Slidell, LA 70460. Teachers who are in both districts can submit all forms to either chairperson. No need to divide them up as they will all be merged anyway.

ALL TEACHERS are REQUIRED to work both one of the written test days as well as the performance day. If you are unable to work, you must submit a sub fee of \$150 per day. This is outlined in the syllabus and is the standard held across the entire state.

As a reminder, NO TIME REQUESTS, will be considered. Due to the nature of scheduling rally, it is not possible to assign a child a requested morning or afternoon time. The schedule is a giant puzzle and all students must play in order in the level with their peers. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE, and please do not ask because we hate to say no.

There has been an update to the rally rules as of June 2024; students are no longer required to earn their medals in consecutive years. This means if a student does not participate for a year or has a score that falls below 90, they will not have to begin again at year 1. Their medals will effectively be “paused” and they can move to the next medal in the next year they have qualifying scores.

Also, please remember that we now allow non-competitive students (students who complete all 4 parts and score 90 or higher in each but are not in the grade required for the level) to be eligible for their medals. They are not allowed to win a performance award, Outstanding Achievement or qualify for TS but they are eligible for medals!

We are looking forward to a wonderful event with our Southshore and Northshore teachers! Please email us if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them, but please also know that many questions about requirements or rules can be found in the rally syllabus so please look there first!

Musically,

Michelle Strain & Stephanie Screen
New Orleans/Northshore Rally Chairs