

Dear colleagues:

As the chair for the Distinguished Music Award, I have encountered over the years some recurrent issues when processing application. To avoid confusion and delay in the process, I would like to list a few important clarifications here as a reminder to all DMA applicants:

- 1) Please use the correct form for the CURRENT year;
- 2) An event is credited by the corresponding SCHOOL year, and not the calendar year (anything before the commencement of 6th grade for the Junior Award and 9th grade for the senior award will not be credited);
- 3) An application should be submitted during the student's 8th-grade school year for the Junior Award, and 12th-grade school year for the Senior Award;
- 4) If a student have enough credits with all corresponding documents, the application could be submitted earlier in the year (in other words, there is no need for you to wait till May to send in your application);
- 5) Only TWO theory tests (in different levels) and TWO musicianship tests (in different levels) are allowed per school year (for theory and musicianship tests, each level would be credited ONLY ONCE, and are not transferable from Junior to Senior);
- 6) The maximum score for the musicianship test is 50 points, NOT 60;
- 7) Only TWO scores (with different groups) in the Spring Festival Piano Ensemble events are allowed per school year;
- 8) Participation as a piano accompanist in any Spring Festival instrumental ensemble event should be counted in the "Service points" category;
- 9) No school band/orchestra/choir concert/trip would be counted towards service points;
- 10) You may call for your intention to apply but, without submitting the proper paperwork, you should not expect the reviewing/plaque-ordering process to begin immediately;
- 11) Please submit copies of the actual adjudication/critique sheets, test scores and programs, instead of award certificates or pictures of ribbons
- 12) Please verify that dates are clearly marked on all event documents;
- 13) If you want to guarantee that your DMA recipients' names are printed in the MSMTA newsletter, you should submit all application material no later than MAY 31st that year;
- 14) If you would like to receive the plaques by a certain date, please keep in mind that, just to be safe, the processing time is two weeks for me, and an extra 2-6 weeks for Trophy World (especially during their busy season from April to May);
- 15) Please do not contact Trophy World directly, for they have stressed that they preferred only one contact;
- 16) Please double-check the point-calculations and the spelling of applicant's names, and make sure that all relevant documents for events listed on the form are in place before you send in the application;
- 17) Should you have any further question, please do not hesitate to email or call me.
- 18) Required school concerts are NOT acceptable as service points.
- 19) Applications and inquiries should be send by the teacher and NOT the parents/students.

Thank you for your support and participation. And all the best for the coming school year!

Sincerely yours,
Bok Hwa Kim
Junior/Senior DMA chair

**Revised Requirements for
Junior Distinguished Music Achievement Award**
(effective last year - 2017)

1. Must earn at least 500 points from at least five different MSMTA events.
2. At least two of these five must be two DIFFERENT MSMTA performance events, which can also include the Composers Circle. A local MSMTA Scholarship event will count as an MSTMA Performance event.
3. Local Association events: no more than three per school year - 15 points each
4. Community Service: no more than three per school year - 15 points each
5. Festivals and Competitions: a student must receive a minimum of a "Good" rating (20 DMA points), or an average of 20 points between two judges to qualify for the DMA.
6. Theory and Keyboard: Levels 1 and above accepted

**Revised Requirments for
Senior Distinguished Music Achievement Award**
(effective this year - 2018)

1. Must earn at least 600 points from at least six different MSMTA events.
2. At least three of these six events must be three DIFFERENT MSMTA performance events, which can also include the MTNA Composition competition and the Composers Circle. A local MSMTA Scholarship event will count as an MSMTA Performance event.
3. Local Association events: no more than three per school year - 15 points each
4. Community Service: no more than three per school year - 15 points each
5. Festivals and Competitions: a student must receive a minimum of a "Good" rating (20 DMA points), or an average of 20 points between two judges to qualify for the DMA.
6. Theory and Keyboard: Levels 3 and above accepted
7. High School Exams
Score: (combining teacher and adjudicator averages)
A+ or an A = 50 points
A- = 45 points
B+ = 40 points
B = 35 points
B- = 30 points

Request that Concerto critique sheet follow other festivals and competitions, with "Superior, Excellent, Very Good, Good, and Fair" and NOT letter grades.