



NEBRASKA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Dear NMTA Members,

On behalf of the NMTA Executive Committee, I am pleased to announce details of the 2026 Nebraska Music Teachers Association State Conference, Competitions, and Festival events. The Music Department of Concordia University in Seward, NE is co-sponsoring our conference, with most events taking place in the Borland Center for Music and Theatre.

NMTA State Conference: Friday, October 23, 2026 (Registration Deadline October 1)

MTNA Performance Competitions: Saturday, October 24, 2026 (Entry Deadline September 9)

Nebraska Performance Competitions: Saturday, October 24, 2026 (Entry Deadline September 14)

NMTA State Festival: Saturday & Sunday, October 24-25, 2026 (Entry Deadline September 14)

Highlights of the conference include the following:

- Sessions and Masterclass with guest clinician, **Catherine Rollin**
 - **Catherine Rollin** is a pianist, composer, clinician, author and teacher. Her more than 400 published pedagogical compositions are recognized worldwide for their combination of musicality and “teachability.” As a clinician, Catherine has given over 300 workshops and masterclasses throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan and Taiwan. Finding the answers to help her students develop artistic, relaxed and confident technical skills led Catherine to insights featured in her groundbreaking series, “Pathways to Artistry.” She is also the co-author of the 2011 edition of the highly regarded college text, “Creative Piano Teaching.”
- Session by NMTA member **Florencia Zuloaga** entitled “Sight-Reading with Our Little Beginners: An Integrative Approach”
- Premier work by commissioned composer, **Jackson Berkey**
 - **Jackson Berkey** is an American composer, pianist and singer, best known for his work with Mannheim Steamroller, which he co-founded with Chip Davis in 1974
- **150th MTNA Anniversary Celebration** showcasing NMTA members performing music “through the decades” (sign up online: <https://forms.gle/rMX1AoddDohhuQq4A>)
- **Awards Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting**

Registration can be completed online via the following link: <https://forms.gle/d2peE4MMFzS2tPPS8>. A copy of this bulletin is available on the NMTA website: nebmta.org. Please note that college students can attend this year’s conference free of charge, though we do request they register so we can plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you in Seward for what promises to be a memorable conference and celebration of 150 years of MTNA!

Krista Hafez Clark, NMTA President-Elect
hafezpiano@gmail.com

2026 NMTA STATE CONFERENCE—TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, October 23rd

8:30-9:15	NMTA Board Meeting
9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:25	The Magic of Imagery Catherine Rollin, conference clinician
10:30-11:00	Sight-Reading with Our Little Beginners: An Integrative Approach Floencia Zuloaga, presenter
11:05-12:00	150 th MTNA Anniversary Program: Music Through the Decades Nebraska Music Teachers
12:15-12:45	Awards Luncheon
12:45-1:30	Annual Business Meeting
1:45-2:40	Through the Eyes of the Composer: Igniting the Spark of Human Creativity and Expression Catherine Rollin, conference clinician
2:45-3:30	Commissioned Composition – Jackson Berkey
3:30-4:00	150 th MTNA Anniversary Reception
4:00-5:30	Masterclass with Catherine Rollin

HOTEL INFORMATION

Cobblestone Hotel & Suites
2575 Progressive Rd, Seward, NE 68434
Phone: (402) 646-1004

Rate: Two Queen Beds or King Room \$109 plus tax—includes breakfast and parking

Call (402) 646-1004 for group code **NMTA** or make your reservation using the following link:

Booking Link: <https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=57772&Chain=7721&arrive=2026-10-22&depart=2026-10-24&adult=1&child=0&group=NMTA>

Note: The link defaults automatically to a Thursday, October 22-Saturday-October 24 stay. Check-in time is 3:00 PM and check-out time is 11:00 AM.

Cut-off date for group rate: Wednesday, September 23, 2026. There are a limited number of rooms available at the group rate.

MTNA COMPETITIONS

MTNA Junior, Senior and Young Artists Performance Competitions

Saturday, October 24th, 2026

The MTNA-sponsored student performance competitions will be held on Saturday, October 24, at Concordia University in Seward, NE at the Borland Center for Music and Theatre. **Application deadline is 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 9th, 2026** at the MTNA website. For detailed information: https://www.mtna.org/Performance_Guidelines.html or contact Bryan Stanley, MTNA Competitions Chair: bryandstanley@gmail.com

Teachers: MNTA/NMTA dues to the national office deadline is August 31, 2026. Entrants will be assessed a \$150.00 nonmember teacher fee if membership is not paid for 2026-2027 membership year.

MTNA Elementary, Junior, Senior and Young Artists Composition Competitions

The application deadline for participation in the MTNA Composition Competition is **Wednesday, September 9th, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time** at the MTNA website: https://www.mtna.org/Composition_Guidelines.html. For more information visit www.mtna.org or contact Nancy Schoen, MTNA Composition Competition Coordinator: nschoen@neb.rr.com

NMTA STATE FESTIVAL

NMTA State Festival

Saturday, October 24: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25: 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

The NMTA State Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 24-25, at Concordia University in Seward, NE at the Borland Center for Music and Theatre. **The registration deadline for participation in the State Festival is Monday, September 14th, 2026.** Entry fees are non-refundable.

Reminders:

- Students who qualify at the District Festival may advance to the NMTA State Festival. Qualification includes receiving a I or II performance rating and 70% or better on the theory test.
- Please note that the ear-training portion will be administered online by teachers *prior to festival*, and the theory test will be administered in-person during festival.
- Online registrations after the September 14 deadline will not be accepted.

For more information, including entry requirements, the online registration link, practice theory tests, and the NMTA Student Festival and Competition Manual (Revised 2022), please see the NMTA website: www.nebmta.org.

Entries will be made online at nebmta.org. Click on “Festivals” and scroll down to “Nebraska State Festival” to register. Mail check to Festival Chair: Lisa Myers, 901 Rosewood Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510. For questions: lisa@legacystrings.com

Be sure to remit MTNA/NMTA dues to the national office by the August 31st deadline.

NEBRASKA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS

MTNA/NMTA dues to the national office deadline: August 31, 2026. Entrants will be assessed a \$150.00 nonmember teacher fee if the membership is not paid for the 2026-2027 membership year.

Nebraska Junior, Senior, and Collegiate Performance Competitions

Saturday, October 24th, 2026

The NMTA-sponsored student performance competitions will be held on Saturday, October 24, at Concordia University in Seward, NE at the Borland Center for Music and Theatre Building. **The postmark deadline for the Nebraska Performance Competitions is Monday, September 14.** Please note the following Nebraska Performance Competition categories:

1. LEVELS AND REQUIREMENTS

- **JUNIOR:** Students must be 11-14 years of age on the date of the competition. Repertoire should include at least two pieces of contrasting styles, with a maximum performance time of 10 minutes.
 - **SENIOR:** Students must be 15-18 years of age at the date of the competition. Repertoire should include at least two pieces of contrasting styles, with a maximum performance time of 15 minutes.
 - **COLLEGIATE LEVEL 1:** Students must be enrolled in a college or university as an undergraduate at the date of the competition. Repertoire should include at least two pieces of contrasting styles, with a maximum performance time of 20 minutes.
 - **COLLEGIATE LEVEL 2:** Students must be enrolled at the graduate level at the date of the competition. Repertoire should include at least two pieces of contrasting styles, with a maximum performance time of 20 minutes.
2. Any student of an NMTA teacher is eligible, with the exception as noted in #3 below. District Festival participation is not required.
 3. Any student entered in the MTNA Competitions will not be eligible for the Nebraska Performance Competitions.
 4. Only one judge will be provided for each level of competition.
 5. One winner will be selected in each category at each level. A Second Place and possible Honorable Mention may be named.

Entries will be available online on the NMTA website. Mail check payable to NMTA to the State Chair: Marina Fabrikant, 3235 S 30th St, Lincoln, NE 68502. For questions: fabrikantmarina@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

August 31	Deadline for paying 2026-2027 MTNA/NMTA teacher membership dues
September 9	Online deadline for MTNA Performance and Composition Competitions
September 14	Registration deadline for State Festival at Concordia University Postmark deadline for Nebraska Performance Competitions
September 23	Deadline for Conference hotel reservations at group rate
October 1	Registration deadline for NMTA State Conference and Luncheon reservation
October 23	NMTA State Conference at Concordia University
October 24	MTNA-sponsored Competitions at Concordia University Nebraska Performance Competitions at Concordia University
October 24-25	NMTA State Festival