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 theJunior Award, and 12th-grade school year for the Senior Award;
4) If a student has 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 the trophy supplier (especially during their busy season from April to May);
15) Please do not contact the trophy supplier 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 sent 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
DMA chair

MSMTA Distinguished Music Achievement Awards Points Calculation System

Theory Tests

SCORE	POINTS
90-100%	50 points
85-89%	45 points
80-84%	40 points
75-79%	35 points
70-74%	30 points

Keyboard Musicianship

SCORE	POINTS
50-60	50 points
45-49	45 points
40-44	40 points
35-39	35 points
30-34	30 points

MSMTA Claudette L. Horwitz Elementary Distinguished Music Achievement Award

Dr. BOK HWA KIM, Chair, eymbhk@yahoo.com

This award is for elementary school students and is designed to honor distinguished participation in MSMTA events accumulated during a student's 1st through 5th grades. This award will encourage and motivate the younger students to participate in our activities and continue their piano studies to reach their goal.

Deadlines: Documentation and application form may be sent at any time during the student's fifth grade, but no later than **June 1, 2027**. Plan at least one month from the time of application to receive the plaque.

Award: An engraved plaque with medallion from MSMTA. Plaques will be sent directly to the teacher for presentation to the student.

Requirements: A **fifth grade student** in the 2026-2027 school year must have earned at least **350** points from no fewer than **four** different MSMTA events listed on the application form during first through fifth grades only.
Participation in the following four events is required:

(1) Keyboard Musicianship Exam* for two separate years – may earn up to 50 points each year.
(2) Theory Test Program for two separate years – may earn up to 50 points each year.
(3) Two separate performances in Local Association recitals or competitions –one per year; 30 points each.
(4) A school or community music program involving one performance, instrumental or choral – 30 points, or an MSMTA performance event.

Additional events may be any of MSMTA's other student activities as needed for points. In order to earn 350 points, student will need to participate in events more often than the minimum needed to qualify.

Eligibility: The MSMTA Elementary Distinguished Music Achievement Award is open to students of any instrument. Events entered and/or won during, but not prior to, the 2022-2023 academic year will qualify for this award. In the case of the Keyboard Musicianship and Theory, students may not duplicate levels or modules.

Application: Application form should be sent to the chair with photocopied documentation (i.e., critiques with the grade and signature of the judges, tests with scores, etc.) for all events. Do not send program listings. Documentation will not be returned.
Mail to:

Dr. Bok Hwa Kim, 3070 Forum Place, Ellicott City, MD 21042

NOTE: E-DMA points are awarded according to the chart below.

Points for Performance Events

Superior	**50 points**
Excellent	**40 points**
Very Good	**30 points**
Good	**20 points**
Fair	**10 points**

*If the student's instrument is other than the piano, participation in Strings Plus, String Solo, or the Chamber Music competition may be substituted for the Keyboard Musicianship Exam requirement.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please contact the DMA Chair, or the Vice President of Student Activities.

MSMTA Claudette L. Horwitz Elementary Distinguished Music Achievement Award Application Form

Dr. Bok Hwa Kim, 3070 Forum Place, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Student:_____Phone:_____

Teacher:_____Phone:_____

Teacher's Address: _____

Teacher Email:_____Application Date:_____

Please refer to the point systems found in the SA Handbook when filling out this application. **Note: In events with multiple judges, all critique sheets need to be submitted with this application.**

Required Events	**Grade 1 2022-2023**	**Grade 2 2023-2024**	**Grade 3 2024-2025**	**Grade 4 2025-2026**	**Grade 5 2026-2027**
Keyboard Musicianship Exam (or Strings Plus, String Solo, or the Chamber Music competition for non-pianists) – 2 years required. .					
Theory Testing Program: maximum of 2 tests per year – 2 years required.					
Local Association Events – 30 pts. Each. 2 years required					
School or Community Event – 1 required – 30 pts (Nursing home recitals with documentation qualify).					
OTHER MSMTA EVENTS – list events entered on lines below					

I certify that this student has earned 350 points through his/her participation in at least four of the events listed above. Documentation is enclosed.

Teacher's Signature:_____

EFFECTIVE 2028-2029

(Mandatory for years beyond 2028, Optional for 2026-2027)

MSMTA Claudette L. Horwitz Elementary Distinguished Music Achievement Award

Dr. BOK HWA KIM, Chair, eymbhk@yahoo.com

This award is for elementary school students and is designed to honor distinguished participation in MSMTA events accumulated during a student's 1st through 5th grades. This award will encourage and motivate the younger students to participate in our activities and continue their piano studies to reach their goal.

Deadlines: Documentation and application form may be sent at any time during the student's fifth grade, but no later than **June 1, 2027**. Plan at least one month from the time of application to receive the plaque.

Award: An engraved plaque with medallion from MSMTA. Plaques will be sent directly to the teacher for presentation to the student.

Requirements: A **fifth grade student** in the 2026-2027 school year must have earned at least **400** points from no fewer than **four** different MSMTA events listed on the application form during first through fifth grades only.
Participation in the following events is required:

(1) At least one Keyboard Musicianship Exam or Theory Test.
(2) At least one MSMTA performance event.

Additional events may be any of MSMTA's other student activities as needed for points. In order to earn 400 points, student will need to participate in events more often than the minimum needed to qualify.

Eligibility: The MSMTA Elementary Distinguished Music Achievement Award is open to students of any instrument. Events entered and/or won during, but not prior to, the 2022-2023 academic year will qualify for this award. In the case of the Keyboard Musicianship and Theory, students may not duplicate levels or modules.

Application: Application form should be sent to the chair with photocopied documentation (i.e., critiques with the grade and signature of the judges, tests with scores, etc.) for all events. Do not send program listings. Documentation will not be returned.
Mail to:

Dr. Bok Hwa Kim, 3070 Forum Place, Ellicott City, MD 21042

NOTE: E-DMA points are awarded according to the chart below.

Points for Performance Events

Superior	**50 points**
Excellent	**40 points**
Very Good	**30 points**

*If the student's instrument is other than the piano, participation in Strings Plus, String Solo, or the Chamber Music competition may be substituted for the Keyboard Musicianship Exam requirement.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please contact the DMA Chair, or the Vice President of Student Activities.

EFFECTIVE 2028-2029

(Mandatory for years beyond 2028, Optional for 2026-2027)

MSMTA Claudette L. Horwitz Elementary Distinguished Music Achievement Award Application Form

Dr. Bok Hwa Kim, 3070 Forum Place, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Student:_____ Phone:_____

Teacher:_____ Phone:_____

Teacher's Address: _____

Teacher Email:_____ Application Date:_____

Please refer to the point systems found in the SA Handbook when filling out this application. **Note: In events with multiple judges, all critique sheets need to be submitted with this application.**

Required Events	**Grade 1 2022-2023**	**Grade 2 2023-2024**	**Grade 3 2024-2025**	**Grade 4 2025-2026**	**Grade 5 2026-2027**
Keyboard Musicianship Exam (or Strings Plus, String Solo, or the Chamber Music competition for non-pianists): maximum 2 tests per year accepted/4 modules per test required					
OR Theory Testing Program: maximum of 2 tests per year accepted ***Combined total of Musicianship/Theory Tests cannot exceed 5 for this award.**					
Local Association Events – 15 pts. 1 per year accepted					
School or Community Event – 15 pts (Nursing home recitals with documentation qualify). 1 per year accepted					
MSMTA Junior I Concerto, 1 or 2 movements					
MSMTA Junior II Concerto, 1 or 2 movements					
MSMTA Intermediate Concerto, 1 or 2 movements					
MSMTA Spring Solo Festival (any instrument)					
MSMTA Spring Piano Ensemble (maximum 2 groups)					
Miriam Gottlieb Memorial Competition					
Doris Chase Sonata Awards					
Hidden Treasures Piano Festival					

I certify that this student has earned 400 points through his/her participation in at least four of the events listed above. Documentation is enclosed.

Teacher's Signature:_____