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 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

EFFECTIVE 2026-2027

(Mandatory for years beyond 2027)

MSMTA Claudette L. Horwitz Junior Distinguished Music Achievement Award

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

This award for eighth grade students is designed to honor distinguished participation in MSMTA events accumulated during a student's sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade years.

Deadlines: Documentation and application form may be sent at any time during the student's eighth-grade year, 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 from MSMTA.

Requirements: An eighth-grade student in the 2026-2027 school year must have earned at least **500 points** from no fewer than **five** different MSMTA events, two of which must be from two different MSMTA performance events (which includes the Composers Circle), listed on the application form during sixth- through eighth grades only. To get service points, a signature is required from someone in charge of the event.

Eligibility: The MSMTA Junior Distinguished Music Achievement Award is open to students of any instrument. Events entered and/or won during, but not prior to, the 2024-2025 academic year will qualify for this award. In the case of the Keyboard Musicianship and Theory, students may not duplicate levels or modules. No points earned toward the Junior DMA Award can be used for the Senior DMA Award.

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, or pictures of ribbons. Documentation will not be returned. Mail these to:

DR. BOK HWA KIM, 3070 Forum Place, Ellicott City, MD 21042

NOTE: Junior DMA points are awarded for the quality of performance rather than for placement (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.). All critiques, competitive and non-competitive, will include an evaluation of the quality of the performance. The chart below will be used to determine points for filling out the application form.

Point System

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

This system applies to all events except Keyboard Musicianship, Theory, Accompanying, and Composers Circle. The points for these events can be found on the Junior DMA Application Form.

In events with multiple judges, **all** critique sheets must be sent. **Grades will be averaged in cases where individual judges give different ratings for the same event**.

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

EFFECTIVE 2026-2027

(Mandatory for years beyond 2027)

MSMTA Claudette L. Horwitz Junior 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 system found in the SA Handbook when filling out this application. ***Note: In events with multiple judges, send ALL critique sheets with this application. (Gottlieb, Chase, Concerto, etc.)***

MTNA/MSMTA Events	**Grade 6 2024-2025**	**Grade 7 2025-2026**	**Grade 8 2026-2027**
MTNA Composition Competition			
MTNA Junior High School Competition			
Miriam Gottlieb Memorial Competition			
Doris Chase Sonata Awards			
MSMTA Junior Concerto Competition			
MSMTA Intermediate Concerto Competition (1 or 2 movements)			
Spring Festival: Solo Competition (any instrument)			
Spring Festival: Piano Ensemble (maximum 2 groups per year)			
Spring Festival: Instrumental (Piano accompaniment in these events falls under the "Service Points" category.)			
MSMTA Chamber Music Festival			
Theory Testing Program: maximum of 2 tests per year with a score of 70 or above			
OR Keyboard Musicianship Program: maximum 2 tests per year accepted/4 modules per test required (List final MSMTA points only) ***Combined total of Musicianship/Keyboard Tests cannot exceed 6 for this award.**			
Accompanying in MSMTA Concerto, Orchestral, Piano and Voice Festivals: Participant 20 pts (10 min. playing time; minimum difficulty: Vivaldi concerti)			
MSMTA Composers/Improvisers Circle: Participant 20 pts.			
Local Association Events: maximum 2 per year, 15 pts. per event ***Total of events cannot exceed 4 for this award.**			
Service points: maximum 2 per year, 15 pts. per event. May include volunteering at any MSMTA event. ***Total of events cannot exceed 4 for this award.**			
Hidden Treasures Piano Festival			
TOTAL POINTS EARNED:			

I certify that this student has earned 500 points through his/her participation in at least five of the events listed above; two must be from two different MSMTA performance events (which includes the Composers Circle). Documentation is enclosed.

Teacher's Signature: _____