

Audition Chair for MTNA/OMTA Competitions

- Heather Lanners (Former Chair)

1) January or early February:

Secure the facilities. I usually have to get on the concert calendar at least this early at OSU. I wait until the football calendar is out :) to avoid a home game. It is generally held on either the first or second weekend in November over a Friday evening (approximately 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and Saturday (approx. 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). I have used our concert hall for the piano categories and our large choir room and a few studios for the chamber music, instrumental and vocal categories.

2) Around the same time (early spring):

Secure the PIANO judge. I have found over the years that in order to get someone for two days, one really has to ask early. The piano judge is paid a flat fee of \$500 for the two days. In addition to that OMTA pays for one night hotel and two meals (Friday dinner and Saturday lunch). I have a list of a few judges I contacted this year who could not do it - but who seemed very interested in being asked in a future year. The judge **MUST** be from out of state. I have drawn heavily from Texas, Kansas and Missouri. OMTA does not pay for travel, so flying someone in isn't currently an option.

3) September

This is usually when I make hotel reservations for the judge and the OMTA president.

MTNA takes care of all of the applications and deadlines for their competitions. As coordinator, you would be sent all of the applications online. It is excellent - quite easy to just print off all of the competitors and their programs. These are all pre-approved by MTNA. This deadline is generally in mid-September. OMTA collegiate auditions all went online this year as well, making it **MUCH** easier. Almost everything comes to you via email and is in the same format. This was very helpful, as many of the college students didn't have checking accounts and payment was messy. Now it is done by credit card on the OMTA website.

The OMTA application deadline is usually shortly after the MTNA deadline. This deadline would be set by you and the OMTA President once the facilities are secured.

Once you receive all of the entrants, you would then make up a judging schedule and email that to all of the competitors and teachers.

*** Once you know who will be competing in the non-piano categories, you can then secure the non-piano judges. These CAN come from in-state, however, for obvious reasons you cannot ask someone to judge anyone from their own institution or city. For example, some years there might be no entrants in voice, two entries in strings and then four saxophone quartets and a solo trombone. You can see why there is no use lining up a bunch of judges until you see who is competing. These judging responsibilities are far less than the piano judge and are paid by the hour in addition to mileage.

4) Approx. 2 weeks prior to the event:

Contact the judges with the schedule and directions etc.

Post a sign up sheet for student volunteers. I have also received help in the past from local piano teachers. You will need help with the registration table and "running" competitors to their various rooms.

I also use piano studios and other teaching studios for warm-up spaces. I usually bug my colleagues around this time to see who would mind us using their studios. There are always monitors around and the competitors are generally really great, so I have fortunately never had any problem with security.

At the competitions - I am always there for the whole time. Even with the volunteers helping (OMTA President) you will need to help announce winners, take the judge to meals, answer questions and "put out fires".

These are the basic list of duties. There are other details that I would be happy to help with should you decide to host. For example there are timing rules for the various categories that you would want to be aware of. I would also connect you with Linda Stump - the MTNA national competition coordinator. She is quite helpful, and would make sure that she listed the location and dates of the competition on the national portal.