

Terrace Hill Endowment for the Musical Arts Junior Competition Requirements

Up to twelve students (provided eligibility and repertoire requirements are met) will be selected to compete at Terrace Hill, the Iowa Governor's Residence in Des Moines, Iowa on Saturday morning, April 11, 2026.

Eligibility: All applicants must be in grades 9-11 in an Iowa high school or be Iowa residents with equivalent home-school status.

Repertoire Requirements: All selections must be performed from memory. Each applicant's program must be **no longer than 9 minutes in length** and consist of at least two distinctly contrasting selections. Applicants not meeting these requirements will be disqualified. No changes in repertoire are allowed following submission of the application.

Application:

Teachers should submit the official online entry form provided at terracehill.iowa.gov/thema along with an entry fee of \$30, payable to THEMA. The application will require a video submission. The entry form, fee, and video recording must be submitted online by the application deadline of 11:59 pm CT on Monday, February 23, 2026. The online application form will become available at 9:00 am CT on Monday, February 9, 2026.

- Repertoire listings should be as complete as possible, including keys, opus numbers, movement numbers, and names, and will be printed in the competition program as listed on the application.
- Application forms, entry fees, and video recordings must be submitted online at terracehill.iowa.gov/thema. The online application form will be available on the THEMA website beginning on Monday, February 9, and must be submitted by 11:59 pm CT on Monday, February 23, 2026 to be considered.
- All application submissions are to be made by the applicant's teacher. Each teacher can submit up to five student applicants for the Junior Piano Competition.
- All qualified applications that are submitted by the application deadline will be considered. The THEMA board selection committee will anonymously review applications and video recordings and assign a ranking (i.e. 1 through 5) to student applications submitted by each teacher. Each teacher who submits student applicants will have an equal number of students selected to compete, beginning with the top-ranked students first. If more than 12 teachers submit student applicants, the THEMA board selection committee will use a lottery system to randomly select 12 teachers who will have their top-ranked student selected to compete. If fewer than 12 teachers submit student applicants, the THEMA board selection committee will use a lottery system to randomly select teachers who will have their second-ranked student selected to compete.
- The twelve approved applicants will be sent a confirmation of their participation no later than March 6, 2026. All others will be notified on the same date and have half of their entry fee refunded.
- By sending in this application form, the applicant gives the Terrace Hill Endowment for Musical Arts permission to use their name, image, or likeness, with or without using their name, for other purposes deemed appropriate by THEMA in its reasonable discretion, except to the extent expressly prohibited by law. The applicant agrees to appear in any recording or broadcast produced by Iowa PBS of the Terrace Hill Piano Competition.

Winners. First, second, and third places will be named and will receive awards as follows: winner, \$250; second place, \$150; third place, \$100. Any of the three top winners may be invited to perform at future Terrace Hill events.

Dates to Remember in 2026:

February 9, 9:00 am CT	Application form opens at terracehill.iowa.gov/thema
February 23, 11:59 pm CT	Deadline to submit application form and entry fee
March 6	Notification of selected students
April 11, morning	Junior Piano Competition held at Terrace Hill

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