

## **Terrace Hill Endowment for the Musical Arts Senior Competition Requirements**

Up to eight 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 afternoon, April 11, 2026.

**Eligibility:** All applicants must be in grade 12 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 **15-18 minutes in length** and consist of solo repertoire from at least three different stylistic periods. 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](https://terracehill.iowa.gov/thema) along with an entry fee of \$50, 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](https://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 Senior Piano Competition. (Note: It is recommended that teachers submit student applicants who are considering continuing their music education in Iowa.)
- 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 applicants will have an equal number of students selected to compete, beginning with the top-ranked students first. If more than eight teachers submit student applicants, the THEMA board selection committee will use a lottery system to randomly select the eight teachers who will have their top-ranked student selected to compete. If fewer than eight 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 eight accepted 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 fees 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.

Scholarships: Winner, second-place, and third-place will each be awarded a scholarship over a two-year period to enroll as a piano major or minor (piano lessons and at least one music class for a minimum of three semesters) at any Iowa college or university, with the winner receiving “The First Family of Iowa Scholarship.” Scholarship amounts for 2026 are: winner, \$4,000; second-place, \$2,000; third-place, \$1,000. Any of the scholarship 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 <a href="https://terracehill.iowa.gov/thema">terracehill.iowa.gov/thema</a>
February 23, 11:59 pm CT	Deadline to submit application form and entry fee
March 6	Notification of selected students
April 11, afternoon	Senior Piano Competition held at Terrace Hill

Contact Information:

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