



High School Competition 2026 Contest Rules

Music

Piano Performance and Vocal Performance

Piano Competition begins at 9:10 a.m.;

Vocal Competition begins immediately after the piano competition

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Columbia State Community College will hold its annual High School Competition on ***Friday, March 20, 2026***. The intention of these contests is to attract talented students to our campus. As part of these contests, the Music Department is sponsoring a vocal and piano contest for soloists only (no duets, trios, quartets, etc.) Each student will be judged on his/her overall interpretation. **Registration from your school must be received by *March 6, 2026*. Pre-registration is required for both the Piano Competition and the Vocal Competition. No late registrations will be accepted.**

Below lists special instructions specifically related to the Piano Competition as well as special instructions specifically related to the Vocal Competition. **Please note: New guidelines for the music competitions were implemented in spring 2016. Please read the following information carefully. Be sure to send the repertoire titles and composers/arrangers with each student's entry.**

PIANO COMPETITION

- 1) Begins at 9:10 a.m. in the Cherry Theater Piano
- 2) Performances should last no more than ***five (5) minutes*** length.
- 3) A piano will be provided for the piano students to perform on stage.
- 4) Each piano student will be judged on the following criteria:

technique, rhythmic precision and interpretation, according to the difficulty of the music and stage presence.

5) **Be sure to send the repertoire titles and composers/arrangers with each student's entry.**

VOCAL COMPETITION

- 1) Begins immediately after the piano competition. The last vocal student will be accepted at 11:35 a.m. **The music competitions end at 11:40 a.m.**
- 2) Performances should last no more than ***five (5) minutes*** length.
- 3) Due to the traditionally high volume of vocal entries, only pre-registered entries may perform for the competition.
- 4) **Important: The vocal competition will ONLY include art songs or Broadway songs. Be sure to send the repertoire titles and composers/arrangers with each student's entry.**
- 5) A piano will be provided for vocal performances. **Vocal Students must provide their own accompanist.** Students may use pre-recorded music.

During the awards ceremony that afternoon, awards for the vocal and piano competition will be given to first, second and third place winners by decision of the judges.

Please contact Dr. Mark Lee if you have questions about the competition or the contest rules. We look forward to greeting you at this event.