



Dear AIM Teachers, Students and Parents:

NSMTA had a successful year of AIM exams in 2022-23 thanks to the NSMTA Member Portal, launched in Fall 2022. The Member Portal was custom built (by Jia-Yee's husband, Jason Craft) to help the teachers manage and streamline their event registrations. Thanks to all the teachers who endured the learning curve of the new system!

For the 2023-24 year, we will continue to offer both in-person and remote exams for levels 3-12. Students may choose either option for Theory and Performance exams and are not required to stick with one format for the whole year.

All AIM Exam dates are listed on [page 3](#) of this packet. Please note the following updates:

- The remote option for **AIM Levels 1-2 Exams** has been eliminated. Students registering for this event will take their exams in person at the Music Institute of Chicago, Winnetka on Sunday, March 3, 2024.
- **Lake Forest AIM Teachers:** due to the fluctuating enrollments, in-person exams will only be offered on the 2nd Theory and Performance date. This decision is subject to change, pending reevaluation once the enrollments have been finalized.

ISMATA has announced significant changes to the scoring guidelines, effective 2023-24. The passing score is now 70 for all exams and levels. See [page 9](#) of this packet for the updated scoring guidelines.

The 2023-24 NSMTA AIM Exam fees are as follows:

Levels 1-2: \$20; Levels 3-8: \$30; **Levels 9-12: \$40 (increase from \$35)**

Join us! Jennifer and Jia-Yee will be hosting an AIM Orientation and Q&A at the NSMTA October Monthly Pre-Meeting (on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 9:30-10:15). The Zoom link will be mailed to the membership a few days prior.

Reminder: to participate in any NSMTA events, all teachers must have joined/renewed dues by October 31st and verified/registered their account on the new NSMTA Member Portal.

We ask all teachers to review the information in this packet carefully and utilize the interactive Table of Contents to easily navigate to each section. Click on this icon ☰ at the top right of each page to return to the Table of Contents. As always, please visit the NSMTA website for the most up-to-date information: www.nsmta.org

Looking forward to another year of AIM exams!

Jennifer Cohen (jfaim@nsmta.org) and Jia-Yee Tang (nuaim@nsmta.org)
AIM Coordinators, North Shore Music Teachers Association (NSMTA)



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2023-24 AIM DATES

	Fall 2023	2023-24 AIM Packet released
Monday	October 2	Exam Option Survey sent out. Deadline to submit: Mon 10/16
Monday	October 23	AIM Orientation and Q&A @ NSMTA Monthly Pre-Meeting (9:30-10:15)
Monday	December 4	Theory Judges Meeting at 9:30 (via Zoom)
Monday to Monday	December 4 to December 18	Theory Registration Dates (Levels 3-12)
	Early January	Theory Exam schedules released
Monday	January 15	AIM Repertoire Substitution Request Deadline
Sunday	January 21	In-Person Theory Exams (Levels 3-12) NU LOCATION ONLY
Sunday	January 28	In-Person Theory Exams (Levels 3-12) NU AND LF LOCATIONS Remote Theory Exams (Levels 3-12)
Wednesday	January 31	Theory exams returned to teachers (pick-up, electronically or mailed) <i>Teachers will grade their own students' written and aural exams.</i>
Monday	February 5	Deadline for Theory score entry in Member Portal
Monday to Friday	February 5 to February 19	AIM Levels 1-2 Registration Dates
Monday	February 26	AIM Levels 1-2 student exam schedules released
Sunday	March 3	AIM Levels 1-2 Exams @ MIC Winnetka IN PERSON ONLY
Wednesday	March 6	Completed exams returned to teachers (pick-up or mailed)
Monday	March 11	Performance Judges Meeting at 9:30 (via Zoom)
Monday to Monday	March 11 to March 25	Performance Registration Dates (Levels 3-12)
Sunday	March 31	Level 12 Repertoire Approval Deadline for 2023-24
	Early April	Levels 3-12 Performance Exam schedules released
Sunday	April 21	In-Person Performance Exams (Levels 3-12) NU LOCATION ONLY Remote Performance Exam: Video & Music Submission Deadline <i>(Technique keys released on 4/19 at 8:00am)</i>
Wednesday to Sunday	April 24 to April 28	Remote Performance Exam - Video evaluation period
Sunday	April 28	In-Person Performance Exams (Levels 3-12) NU AND LF Locations <i>(Technique keys released on 4/26 at 8:00am)</i>
Wednesday	May 1	Performance exams returned to teachers (pick-up, electronically or mailed)



AIM EXAM OVERVIEW



AIM EXAM OVERVIEW

Get started: Purchase the AIM Syllabus and Workbooks

To purchase the 2014 ISMTA Syllabus and corresponding workbooks for levels 2-12, visit ismta.org/shop. All materials are available for purchase as hard copies and digital downloads.

All AIM curriculum adheres to the published 2014 ISMTA Syllabus. If any discrepancies or questions arise, **we defer to this publication as the final word (not the workbooks)**.

Information for New AIM Teachers

New AIM teachers will undergo training and mentorship in their first year. Their volunteer hours will be spent observing other experienced judges and learning how to meet NSMTA's standard of judging. Additionally, they may be assigned monitor jobs or other non-judging jobs as needed. The expectation is that in the second year and beyond, once comfortable with the process, they would serve as judge.

Three long-time, experienced NSMTA members are available as AIM Mentors. If you have any questions or need assistance in getting started in AIM, please feel free to contact:

- Levels 1-3: Marlene Chatain, chatainco@att.net
- Levels 4-8: Heidi Mayer, germangirlheidi@gmail.com
- Levels 9-12: Debbie Gillette, debbiegillette1@gmail.com

AIM Exam Locations

NSMTA AIM Exams are separated into two subunits of levels: Levels 1-2 and Levels 3-12. Due to the large geographical area of the Chicago North Shore, Levels 3-12 exams are offered at two exam sites.

	Levels 1-2	Levels 3-12	
Exam Sites	Music Institute of Chicago Winnetka Campus 300 Green Bay Road Winnetka, IL 60093 Coordinator: Jia-Yee Tang NUaim@nsmta.org	Music Institute of Chicago Lake Forest Campus 40 E Old Mill Road Lake Forest, IL 60045 Coordinator: Jennifer Cohen LFaim@nsmta.org	Northwestern University Music Academy 1818 Hinman Ave Evanston, IL 60201 Coordinator: Jia-Yee Tang NUaim@nsmta.org
Who	All NSMTA teachers send their level 1-2 students to this site.	NSMTA teachers must choose one exam location that is closest proximity to their teaching location and register their students at this site. The same location must be chosen for both Theory and Performance exams.	
When	Level 1-2 students take their entire exam on one Sunday in March.	Levels 3-12 exams are split into two parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory Exams: taken in January • Performance Exams: taken in April 	

Detailed information on Levels 1-2 Exams, Theory Exams and Performance Exams are provided in separate chapters of packet.



AIM EXAM OVERVIEW - PAGE 2

Registration Process and AIM Exam Fees

An NSMTA membership is required to participate in AIM. Membership fees are due by October 31st of the current school year. The acting NSMTA Membership Chair will activate/renew your NSMTA Member Portal account after verifying your paid dues. Be sure to update your Account Settings and verify your mailing address, email address and phone number.

At any time, teachers can log in to the Member Portal and add students to their Student Roster. Each student only needs to be added to the Student Roster one time and will remain in the Portal until removal is requested. **Important: your Member Portal Student Roster will be the basis for ordering awards and generating certificates. Teachers will need to check accuracy of all information, including level and correct spelling of student names.**

To register for AIM Exams, log into the Member Portal starting on the first day of the registration period. Select names from your Student Roster to complete the registration form and pay applicable fees for each participating student. Payment is accepted by credit/debit card only. Your registration is fully complete once payment has been received. Multiple transactions are allowed within the registration period.

Contact membership@nsmta.org for any questions about your Member Portal account.

AIM Exam Fees

Teachers are responsible for registering and paying all enrollment fees on their students' behalf. Enrollment fees for levels 3-12 covers both Theory and Performance exams.

Level	Fee	When to Pay Registration Fees
Levels 1-2	\$20	At Level 1-2 Registration (Feb 5 - Feb 19, 2024)
Levels 3-8	\$30	At Theory Registration (Dec 4 - Dec 18, 2023)
Levels 9-12	\$40	At Theory Registration (Dec 4 - Dec 18, 2023)
Re-registration*	\$20	At Performance Registration (Mar 11 - Mar 25, 2023) or when Level 12 repertoire exam is submitted

*A re-registration fee of \$20 applies to:

- A level 3-11 student completing the performance exam in a different year than the theory exam. Re-registration fees are due at the Performance Exam registration.
- A Level 12 students completing their repertoire exam in the calendar year following the year of their theory exam. The \$20 fee is due at the time of the repertoire exam submission. See the [Level 12](#) section for more information about Level 12 exams.



AIM EXAM OVERVIEW - PAGE 3

Teacher Judging and Volunteer Jobs

All participating AIM teachers are expected to serve first and foremost as a judge.

Teachers will fill out a required volunteer form to indicate their availability and will have the opportunity to indicate their preferred exam period and level preferences.

Due to fluctuating in-person vs remote enrollment, in-person judging needs will be prioritized. All teachers that feel confident to serve as a remote judge will have the opportunity to indicate this on the Volunteer Form. Once the in-person judges are assigned, remote judges will be assigned, drawn from the in-person/remote list.

Teachers that have a high number of student registrations may be asked to judge more than one exam day/period/format as needed in order to fairly distribute the judging hours required for all student enrollments. This is especially true for the performance exams, where judging hours needed is much greater than for theory exams.

To assist the AIM coordinators in scheduling, teachers are asked to indicate flexibility in all respects (format choice, date/time choices) by selecting “No Preference” when possible. If there are not enough judges to meet our needs, coordinators might reach out to teachers to volunteer beyond their assigned times.

If all the judging needs have been met, some teachers may be asked to volunteer in non-judging capacities such as: preparing, sorting, and mailing exam sheets; check-in desk or room monitor; repertoire and link checking.

If a teacher winds up with a conflict that prevents them from fulfilling their assigned judging duties, it is that teacher’s responsibility to find a replacement.

Remote Judging: Upgrading to Zoom Pro

Judges who select in-person/remote availability will need to provide their Zoom link and/or Meeting ID and passcode (if applicable) on the volunteer form. Each judge should plan to host one meeting that stays online for the entire duration of their judging.

Teachers with a basic Zoom account can **upgrade to a Pro account** and NSMTA will reimburse you for one month membership (\$15.99). Submit your receipt to your NSMTA coordinator. Upgrade to a Pro account on or after January 1, 2024, so that the Pro features are available on the remote exam date (January 28, 2024). It is the teacher’s responsibility to cancel their Pro account before the 2nd month is charged. Any charges incurred beyond the one-month will be the teacher’s responsibility.

How to share the proper link: The easiest way to handle using Zoom for AIM exams is NOT to schedule a meeting. Instead, use your **Personal Meeting ID (PMI)**.

- Meetings using your **PMI** are *not required to be scheduled* and can be started and stopped at any time (much like a phone number).
- Find your **PMI** link under **Meetings**. Copy your Personal Link and paste it onto the Volunteer Form.
- One the day of the exam, use the **New Meeting** button on the home screen. Make sure “Use Personal Meeting ID (PMI)” is checked so that you start the correct meeting!



AIM EXAM OVERVIEW - PAGE 4

Makeup Exam Policy and Inclement Weather

AIM Exam makeups will only be offered for in person exams, and only for students that miss their exam due to illness or family emergency on exam day.

- The make-up exam period is one week immediately following the final exam date.
- Any make-up exam not completed by the end of the make-up exam period will be considered Incomplete.
- The make-up judge will be assigned at each location (on a volunteer basis)
- Make-up schedule will be arranged directly between student/parent and make-up judge. The student/parent/teacher is responsible for contacting the make-up judge and cc'ing the coordinators on all correspondence.

Inclement Weather: In-person exams are subject to change. If inclement weather makes it unsafe to hold in-person exams, judges/students should be prepared to administer/take their exams remotely. This decision will be made within 24 hours of the affected exam date.

Music Policy for Repertoire Performances

Students who forget to bring their repertoire music, or who bring in photocopies of music to the exam will receive an Incomplete with NO make-up option. Students will play for judge's comments only. Students who receive an Incomplete may still advance to a higher level in the following year, upon teacher discretion.

Acceptable forms of music include:

- Original purchased hard copy of music
- Original hard copy of music borrowed from teacher or other sources
- Print copies of purchased digital downloaded music

Not acceptable print copies of music include, but are not limited to:

- Any music from IMSLP, even if the music is in the public domain
- Any other free music resources that are not verified as legally purchased music
- Any music that is photocopied from original hard copy, even if from teacher's library

Repertoire Substitution Deadline: January 15th

Teachers may request to use repertoire pieces that are not listed in the syllabus. To request approval, you must receive consent from the state repertoire chair Stephanie Myers (hisamimyrs@gmail.com). Send Stephanie an email with the title, level and a scanned copy of the requested piece. All substitution requests must be submitted by January 15th of the current year. No exceptions will be made.



AIM EXAM OVERVIEW - PAGE 5

Changes to Scoring Guidelines

While the core AIM curriculum and requirements remain the same, there are some significant changes from both the state and within our local chapter that will take place, effective immediately with the 2023-24 AIM Exams. **The minimum passing score is now 70 for all exams and levels.**

The new scoring guidelines are as follows:

70-74	Passing
75-79	Fair
80-89	Good
90-94	Excellent
95-100+	With Distinction

ISMTA AIM Awards

AIM awards, courtesy of ISMTA and NSMTA, will be awarded to all passing AIM students who have completed their Theory and Performance Exam. The AIM coordinators will order, sort, and arrange award pickup times in May/June.

Award	Eligible Levels and Requirements
AIM Medal (w/teal ribbon)	First-year participants completing AIM with NSMTA
Pin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All passing level 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2 students Level 3-12 students who have passed the Theory Exam with a score of 70 or above
Composer Bust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All passing 1A, 1B, 1C and 2 students Level 3-12 students who have passed the Performance Exam with a score of 70 or above
Certificate	All students who have passed both Theory and Performance Exams
Plaque (personalized)	Level 9-12 students passing with a minimum final score of 80 on both the Theory and Performance exams (no longer combined and averaged to determine qualifying score for the plaques). Graduated sized plaques will be offered, with a larger plaque awarded at each higher level.

Students who receive an Incomplete on their exam will not be eligible to receive a final score, composer bust or certificate. However:

- Level 3-12 students that passed the theory exam and Level 1-2 students will still receive a pin.
- First time participants of AIM will still receive a medal.



AIM EXAM OVERVIEW - PAGE 6

Level 12 Exams

This section outlines the procedural guidelines for entering Level 12 students with NSMTA. *Please refer to Level 12 – p. 29 of the 2014 AIM Syllabus for specific Level 12 Performance Exam program requirements.*

Level 12 students have the option of taking their entire exam in-person or remotely.

	IN-PERSON	REMOTE
Theory Exam	Taken in January on one of the in-person Theory Exam dates	Taken in January on the Remote Theory Exam date
Performance Exam: Technique Only	Played in April on one of the in-person Performance Exam dates. (15-minute time slot)	Technique video submitted by the remote video submission date in April (uploaded to YouTube Playlist)
Performance Exam: Repertoire*	Scheduled in-person exam with a judge OR a public recital. For recitals, it is up to the teacher and student to secure the date, time and location and then notify the coordinator to assign a judge.	Links to the YouTube Playlist and Google Drive Music Folder are submitted on the Performance registration form. The actual content (YouTube videos, sheet music PDFs and Program Notes**) may be added to the respective links at any time up to the date of submission.

***Repertoire Exams** may be performed/submitted anytime by December 31st of the same year the Theory and Technique exam was completed.

- If an extension is needed, Level 12 students are granted the following calendar year (Jan-Dec) to submit their repertoire. A \$20 fee applies, paid at the time of submission.
- If still not completed after the one-year extension, the student will be considered *Not Completed* and their registration will be closed.

Teachers must obtain **Level 12 repertoire approval** by the state AIM Performance chair at least 5 months prior to the exam or recital (March 31st at the latest). Email the [Level 12 Program Approval Submission Form](#) to Stephanie Myers at hisamimyers@gmail.com.

NSMTA awards \$100 and a special certificate to eligible students who have passed the AIM Level 12 Exam. The following is the eligibility criteria:

- Received a minimum final score of 89 on both the Theory and Performance exam (no longer combined and averaged to determine qualifying score)
- Participated in AIM with an NSMTA teacher for at least 3 years.

Note: since ISMTA is now awarding graduated sized personalized plaques, NSMTA has decided to eliminate the trophy from the Level 12 awards.

Due to the fluctuating nature of completion dates, orders will only be placed three times a year: May (together with the other levels), August 31st and December 31st. Teachers will be contacted when awards are ready for pick-up.

****Program notes** should include some reference to the historical period, biographical information on the composer, and a few sentences surrounding the piece. May also include any poignant details for the audience to listen for and/or personalized details about the significance of the piece to the performer.



AIM LEVELS 1-2 EXAMS

Coordinator: Jia-Yee Tang, nuaim@nsmta.org



AIM LEVELS 1-2 EXAMS

Levels 1-2 exams will be administered on **March 3, 2024**, in-person only at the Music Institute of Chicago, Winnetka (address: 300 Green Bay Rd, Winnetka, IL 60093). All NSMTA AIM teachers, regardless of their Level 3-12 Theory exam location association, will register their Level 1-2 students for this date and location.

2023-24 AIM Levels 1-2 Exam Dates

Monday to Friday	February 5 to February 19	Registration Dates for Levels 1-2 Exams
Monday	February 26	Levels 1-2 student exam schedules released
Sunday	March 3	AIM Level 1-2 Exams
Wednesday	March 6	Completed exams returned to teachers (pick-up or mailed)

AIM Levels 1-2 Exam Summary

	IN-PERSON
A. Keyboard and Aural Skills Technique, Sight Reading, Transposition, Keyboard Geography, Harmonization, Aural Skills	Assigned 15-20-minute time slot with the judge on site. The entire exam, including 2 memorized repertoire pieces, will be performed.
B. Repertoire	
C. Written Exam (<i>Level 2 only</i>)	Physical exam sheet received at check-in and taken on site after the Keyboard Skills exam with the Judge.

How to Register and Pay for AIM Levels 1-2 Exams

During the registration period (Feb 5 – Feb 19, 2024), teachers can register and pay for Level 1-2 exams on their students' behalf from the Member Portal. See Registration Process and AIM Exam Fees in the AIM Exam Overview section (page 7).

Exam Periods

Levels 1-2 students will get to choose their Exam Period preference (a 3- or 4-hour time window) during which they will complete their entire exam. Exams will likely run from 9:00am-5:00pm, and Exam Periods for these exams are TBA.



AIM LEVELS 1-2 EXAMS (PAGE 2)

Payment Process for Area Music Schools

Certain area music schools cover the AIM exam fees for their students. These students can be identified as belonging to the music school when added to the Student Roster. Each music school's designated "owner" will be granted their own Member Portal account from which they can oversee the registrations and payments for their school. For students who are NOT identified as a music school student, the teacher is responsible for payment.

AIM Levels 1-2 Student Schedules

The AIM Coordinators will assign each registered student an exam date and time. This schedule will be available on the NSMTA Member Portal on Monday, February 26, 2024. Teachers will be able to easily email their student schedules from the Member Portal. **No changes will be allowed after the schedule is finalized. Families should plan to block off their schedules during their assigned date and Exam Period.**

After the Exam: Returned Exam Sheets and Scores

Due to the elimination of remote exams for Levels 1-2, the methods of returning exam sheets to teachers will either be by an arrangement for pick-up or mailed out as soon as possible after the exam day.

Scoring

Teachers will not have to grade their own student's exams.

- Final scores for Level 1A, 1B and 1C will already be tallied by the judge.
- The Level 2 written exams will first be graded by the AIM coordinator and final scores will be determined by the AIM Coordinator before returning them to the teachers.

All scores will be entered into the Member Portal on your behalf by the AIM Coordinator.

Teachers are free to distribute the final score sheets to their students once picked up or received by mail.



AIM THEORY EXAMS LEVELS 3-12

Coordinators:

Lake Forest & Remote Exams: Jennifer Cohen, lfaim@nsmta.org

Northwestern Area Exams: Jia-Yee Tang, nuaim@nsmta.org



AIM THEORY EXAMS (LEVELS 3-12)

2023-24 AIM Theory Exam Dates

Monday	December 4	Theory Judges Meeting (9:30) via Zoom
Monday to Monday	December 4 to December 18	Theory Registration Dates (Levels 3-12)
	Early January	Theory Exam schedules released
Sunday	January 21	In-Person Theory Exams (Levels 3-12) NU only
Sunday	January 28	In-person Theory Exams (Levels 3-12) BOTH NU and LF Remote Theory Exams (Levels 3-12)
Wednesday	January 31	Theory exam sheets returned to teachers (pick-up, electronically or mailed) <i>Teachers will grade their own student's written and aural exams.</i>
Monday	February 5	Theory scores entry deadline. <i>Teachers will enter their students final scores into the Member Portal</i>

Take note that the Northwestern location will continue to offer 2 in-person exam dates while the Lake Forest Location will offer Theory exams ONLY on the 2nd exam date.

Remote exams will be held via Zoom and will combine all students and teachers from both locations for scheduling. Jennifer Cohen will coordinate all the Remote exams.

Theory Judges Meeting

Join us at our mandatory Theory Judges Meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 9:30am via Zoom. The reminder and link will be emailed to the general NSMTA membership. Meeting agenda to be announced.

AIM Theory Exam Summary

	IN-PERSON	REMOTE
A. Keyboard Skills Sight-reading, rhythm, harmonization, transposition and melody playback (if applicable)	Assigned 10-minute time slot with the judge on site	Assigned 10-minute time slot with the judge via Zoom.
B. Written Exam	Physical exam sheets received at check-in and taken on-site back-to-back with the Aural Skills exam	Electronic copy emailed 30 minutes prior to the assigned Exam Period. Students will need printer access.
C. Aural Skills Exam	Students will use their own cellular device and headset brought to the exam. Unique access codes and links to the Online Aural Skills Player will be provided at check-in.	Students will access the Online Aural Skills Player from their personal device at home. Unique access codes and links to the Online Aural Skills Player will be emailed along with the exam sheets.



AIM THEORY EXAMS (LEVELS 3-12) – PAGE 2

How to Register and Pay for Theory Exams

During the registration period (Dec 4 – Dec 18, 2023), teachers can register and pay for Theory exams on their students' behalf from the Member Portal. Students need to be added to the Student Roster. See Registration Process in the AIM Exam Overview section.

Theory Exam Periods

On each exam day, students will be assigned to a 3-hour Exam Period during which they will complete all three parts of the exam. Students can indicate their Exam Period preference on the registration form. The exam periods are: 9:00-12:00p, 12:00-3:00p and 3:00-6:00p.

Payment Process for Area Music Schools

Certain area music schools cover the AIM exam fees for their students. These students can be identified as belonging to the music school when added to the Student Roster. Each music school's designated "owner" will be granted their own Member Portal account from which they can oversee the registration and payment for their school. For students who are NOT identified as a music school student, the teacher is responsible for payment.

Requirement: Submit Transposition Piece for Levels 4-12 (Remote and In-Person)

You will be required to enter each student's Transposition piece on the Theory registration form.

- If using one of the two suggested pieces in the workbook, choose the title from a drop-down menu.
- If the transposition piece comes from a source other than the workbook, type the Composer, Title and Key of the piece and then **upload a single page scanned file of the music to the form**. Either JPEG or PDF is acceptable for the Transposition upload.

AIM Theory Student Schedules

The AIM Coordinators will assign each registered student an exam date and time. This schedule will be available on the NSMTA Member Portal approximately two weeks after registration closes. Teachers will be able to easily email their student schedules from the Member Portal. **No changes will be allowed after the schedule is finalized. Families should plan to block off their schedules during their assigned date and Exam Period.**

After the Exam: Returned Theory Exam Sheets and Scores

A link to your Google Drive Teacher Folder will be visible in the Member Portal. Your remote students' exam sheets (if applicable) will be deposited into that folder by Wednesday, January 31, 2024. In-person score sheets will be mailed out immediately after the 2nd exam day.

Final Steps and Scoring: Teachers are responsible for grading and scoring their own students' Written and Aural Skills exams. Answer keys will be provided. Once graded, please **tally** up the final scores and **enter** them onto their Student Roster in the Member Portal by Monday, February 5, 2024. Score sheets may then be distributed to students.



AIM PERFORMANCE EXAMS LEVELS 3-12

Coordinators:

Lake Forest & Remote Exams: Jennifer Cohen, lfaim@nsmta.org

Northwestern Area Exams: Jia-Yee Tang, nuaim@nsmta.org



AIM PERFORMANCE EXAMS (LEVELS 3-12)

2023-24 AIM Performance Exam Dates

Students may choose in-person or remote Performance, regardless of the option chosen for Theory. Be mindful of submission deadlines, as late submissions will not be accepted.

Monday	March 11	Performance Judges Meeting via Zoom
Monday to Monday	March 11 to March 25	Performance Registration Dates (Levels 3-12)
	Early April	Levels 3-12 Performance Exam schedules released
Sunday	April 21	In-Person Performance Exams (Levels 3-12) NU LOCATION ONLY Remote Performance Exam: Video & Music Submission Deadline <i>(Technique keys released on 4/19 at 8:00am)</i>
Wednesday to Sunday	April 24 to April 28	Video evaluation period
Sunday	April 28	In-Person Performance Exams (Levels 3-12) NU AND LF Locations <i>(Technique keys released on 4/26 at 8:00am)</i>
Wednesday	May 1	Completed score sheets returned (via Teacher Folder or mailed)

Take note that the Northwestern location will continue to offer 2 in-person exam dates while the Lake Forest Location will offer Performance exams ONLY on the 2nd exam date.

Remote Exam Video Evaluation Period

All remote Performance Exams submitted by the April 21st deadline will be evaluated during the 5-day video evaluation period beginning **Wednesday, April 24** through **Sunday, April 28, 2024 (by 11:59p)**. All remote judges are asked to evaluate all their assigned videos within this 5-day time frame, and to scrutinize their evaluations the way they would an in-person exam.

Performance Judges Meeting

The mandatory **Performance Judges Meeting** will be held on **Monday, March 11, 2024** at 9:30am via Zoom. The reminder and link will be emailed to the general NSMTA Membership. Meeting agenda TBA but will include details about the Mock Judging Requirement.

Mock Judging Requirement

More information on the Mock Judging Requirement will be provided at a later date.



AIM PERFORMANCE EXAMS (LEVELS 3-12) – PAGE 2

AIM Performance Exam Summary

The AIM Performance Exam includes the evaluation of technique and repertoire selections in accord with the 2014 AIM Syllabus. For each level, a minimum of 2 pieces must be memorized to pass.

Level	# of Pieces	Musical Period
3	2 pieces	1 Baroque/Classical and 1 Romantic/Contemporary
4 – 9	3 pieces	1 Baroque, 1 Classical, and 1 Romantic/Contemporary
10 - 12	4 pieces	1 Baroque, 1 Classical, 1 Romantic, 1 Contemporary

See the 2014 AIM Syllabus for specific repertoire requirements for each level.

How to Register for Performance Exams

During the Performance exam registration dates (March 11-25), teachers can complete the registration form for students from their Student Roster in the Member Portal. No fees are due at this time except for re-registrations. [See specific details about re-registrations.](#)

- For in-person exams, you will need to provide the students' availability and submit their repertoire selections for review and approval.
- For remote students, you will be asked to provide links to the student's YouTube Playlist and Google Drive Music Folder.

Submitting YouTube Playlist and Google Drive Music Links

Each student's own YouTube Playlist and Google Drive Music Folder will need to be created and links submitted on the registration form. Videos and scanned music PDFs can be added to the YouTube Playlist and Google Drive Folder respectively at any time before the video submission deadline: **April 21, 2024 (by 11:59 pm).**

It is the teacher's responsibility to review their students' contents for accurate content and appropriate sharing settings before submitting their remote exams.

Exam Periods and Individual Time Slots for In-Person Exams

Each exam day will be split into 2 Exam Periods. Students will indicate their preferred Exam Period on the registration form.

- 8:00a-1:00p
- 1:00p-6:00p



AIM PERFORMANCE EXAMS (LEVELS 3-12) – PAGE 3

How to Register for Performance Exams (continued)

Each student will be assigned to a time slot within their preferred Exam Period, length determined by their level:

Level	Time Slot Lengths
Level 3	15 minutes
Levels 4 and 5	20 minutes
Levels 6 and 7	25 minutes
Levels 8 and 9	30 minutes
Levels 10 and 11	35 minutes
Level 12	15 minutes (Technique Only)

AIM Performance Student Schedules

This schedule will be available on the NSMTA Member Portal approximately two weeks after registration closes. Teachers will be able to easily email their student schedules from the Member Portal. **No changes will be allowed after the schedule is finalized. Families should plan to block off their schedules during their assigned date and Exam Period.**

After the Exam: Returned Performance Exam Sheets and Scores

- Teachers will retain the same Google Drive Teacher Folders assigned from Theory (available in the Member Portal). Your remote students' exam sheets (if applicable) will be deposited into that folder by Wednesday, May 1, 2024.
- In-person score sheets will be mailed out immediately after the 2nd exam day.

All final scores will be entered in the Member Portal by the AIM coordinators on your behalf. Once the score sheets are returned to you, you may distribute them back to your students.