

# FAQ for 2020 AIM Exams

## What will teachers need to do?

All teachers will first need to fill out the [Teachers Judging Options/Preference Form](#) by [April 15, 2020](#). Please fill out and submit even if you will not be able to judge in any format/option.

## How will teachers sign up their students for the exam options?

There will be separate forms for each option to register your students

- for video submissions (levels 3-12)
- for online exam with another teacher as Judge (all levels)
- for other options, which include:
  - Teachers giving exams to their own students (all levels)
  - Delaying exams until an In Person exam option becomes available in 2020 (all levels)
  - Delay until April 2021 Performance Exam (levels 3-12)
  - Withdraw from AIM

## Where will teachers find these forms?

The links to these forms will be emailed to all teachers after April 10.

They will also be located on the NSMTA website, in the AIM Registration box in the Members Only section

## Can students fill out and submit forms?

- Teachers, parents or students may fill out and submit the forms.
- Teachers may forward the links to their students/parents to fill out and submit.
- In the Members Only section on the website, only teachers may fill out the forms and submit.
- Please do not give your account information to your students.

## **Video Submission Option: (for levels 3-12)**

### When is the deadline to register for video submissions?

The deadline to register for the video submission option is [April 24, 2020](#)

Students may submit videos at any time between May 4 - June 28, 2020

[All videos must be submitted by June 28, 2020](#)

### What are the guidelines and instructions for the video submission option?

Students choosing the video submission option will need to have or create his/her own Youtube channel. Students can sign up for a Youtube account/channel, through a google account, either through a free gmail address or any existing email address. There are many tutorials on google and youtube videos on how to do this.

- Students would upload the videos to his/her own Youtube channel.
- All Technique will be recorded on one video.

- Students will receive all pre-selected keys that are not students' choice to be performed ahead of time.
- Each repertoire selection must be uploaded as separate videos.
- All videos must be published as "unlisted."
- When ready to submit, students would send email to aimvideosubmission@gmail.com, which will include Word or Google Document containing all video links, and scanned files of all music to be evaluated.
- Scanned music must be clear and all music visible, with measures numbered.
- Video and audio must be of high enough quality that judges can evaluate and determine an accurate score.
- Recording devices must be positioned so that the student's hands are visible to evaluate correct fingering of scales and arpeggios.
- In the event that a score cannot be determined due to poor video/audio quality or positioning of the device, the judge has the discretion to award exam Pass/Fail.

***Complete detailed information and instructions will be sent to students once registration is submitted.***

#### **How will judges submit comments and scores for the video submissions?**

- The email with video links and music from students will be forwarded to their assigned judges.
- Judges will write comments and indicate a score directly on the Comments section of each video.
- Judges will combine scores and determine a final score. The judges will reply to the same email that was sent listing the final score in the body of the email

#### **When will the students/teachers receive comments and scores for the video submissions?**

*The email from students will be forwarded to the assigned judges within one week of submission. Judges are requested to evaluate and submit comments and score within one week of receiving the email. Please be patient, as we all lead busy lives, so it may take up to 2 weeks before seeing the results.*

### **Online Exam with Another Teacher as Judge Option: (for all levels)**

#### **When is the deadline to register for the online exams?**

*The online exams are offered from May 4 – June 28, which is divided into four 2-week exam periods. Students will select the best time period to take the exam.*

*The exam periods are:*

- *May 4 - 17*
- *May 18 - 31*
- *June 1 - 14*
- *June 15 - 28*

The deadline to register for either of the **May** online exam periods is April 24, 2020.  
The deadline to register for either of the **June** online exam periods is May 22, 2020.

### **How will online exams be scheduled?**

After each registration deadline, AIM coordinators will assign students to judges, based on online exam platforms and exam period preferences selected. The assigned judge will then contact the student directly to schedule the exam.

The exam can be scheduled anytime during the 2-week exam period, but please make every effort to complete the exam by the end of the exam period.

Should circumstances prevent completion within the exam period, extension will be granted at the discretion of the judge.

### **How will online exams be scheduled?**

Time allotment for AIM performance exams are different for each level, as upper levels will require more time. Please allow extra time to connect and make sure both student and judge are situated well enough to proceed with the online exam, as well as to make extra allowance for poor or interrupted internet connection during the exam. If scheduling back to back exams, be sure to give yourself time to wind down from one exam before proceeding on to the next.

Time allotments for exams below are merely suggestions from the AIM coordinators and should ONLY be used to provide a general guideline.

Levels 1A,1B,1C: 15-30 minutes  
Level 2: 20-30 minutes  
Level 3: 15-30 minutes  
Level 4: 20-30 minutes  
Level 5: 20-30 minutes  
Level 6: 30-40 minutes  
Level 7: 30-40 minutes

Level 8: 30-40 minutes  
Level 9: 40-50 minutes  
Level 10: 40-50 minutes  
Level 11: 50-60 minutes  
Level 12: 20-30 minutes (for technique only)  
If taking the whole exam, 50-60 minutes.

### **How are online exams scored?**

All online exams will be scored Pass/Fail

### **Why are online exams Pass/Fail?**

The Pass/Fail option was decided due to a variety of reasons where determining an accurate evaluation of the performances can be challenging. These reasons include but are not limited to:

- Internet connection is inconsistent, from home to home and day to day, which can result in poor video/audio quality or lost connections.
- Acoustic pianos in students' homes may be in various states, including pianos not in tune, not all working keys, etc.
- Students may have non acoustic pianos, in various states and limitations.
- Devices for online exams may not be positioned in such a way that accurate fingerings can be determined.

### **How will judges get the music?**

The student (or teacher) will scan or take pictures of all music to be heard and email them to the judge at least 3 days prior to the exam.

- Measures must be numbered
  - for shorter and/or early level pieces, please number every measure
  - for longer and/or more advanced pieces, numbers at the beginning of each line is sufficient.
- All scans or pictures of music must be clear with all music visible, free from shadows that may make it difficult to see.

Please consider purchasing a scanner app that will create clear scans of music. Scanner Pro was one app suggested, but many are available, either free or for a small fee.

### **How will judges get the score sheets?**

Fillable pdf files of all score sheets will be emailed to judges and will also be available to download on the NSMTA website. Judges will email completed score sheets directly to the student after the completion of the online exam. Please do not send them to the AIM coordinators.

Although online exams are Pass/Fail, judges are encouraged to write comments to the best of their ability.

Only non-passing exams need to be notified to the AIM coordinators.

### **How should the students prepare for the online exams?**

Students should position the device in such a way that the judge will have a clear picture of the students hands at the piano keys.

- Students (and Judges) should make every effort to provide the most conducive surroundings and best internet connection during the exam. Some suggestions include:
- Having all music easily accessible near the piano.
- Laptop, iPad/Tablets will provide better video image than a cell phone.
- Close all other applications on the device to get stronger connection.
- Hard wiring, if an option, would provide stronger connection than wi-fi.
- If possible, limit internet usage from other family members during the entire exam.
- Have the device fully charged or plugged in and have a phone on hand just in case.
- Limit outside distractions, such as pets, younger siblings, background TV, etc.
- Younger students must have the assistance of a parent.

## **Online Exam with Your Teacher as Judge Option: (for all levels)**

**Is there a deadline to register for this option?**

The deadline to register for students taking the exam with their own teacher as judge is April 24, 2020.

**Is there a deadline to complete this option?**

The deadline to complete this option is August 31, 2020.

*Teachers may use any format of choice, including online exam or In Person option when that becomes available. Scoring for this is also Pass/Fail.*

*Fillable pdf files of all score sheets will be emailed to all teachers that choose this option and will also be available to download on the NSMTA website.*

## **Other Questions:**

### **Are students required to do the technique?**

*Yes, students are still required to complete all the requirements as outlined in the AIM syllabus for all levels, including technique and 2 memorized pieces.*

*All students will receive all the pre-selected keys that are not students' choice to be performed ahead of time.*

### **Can students use photocopies of music?**

*For this year only, students may use photocopies of music.*

### **What exam option should Level 9-12 students choose?**

*Level 9 - 12 students may choose any of the options previously listed.*

*However, students at levels 9-12 are eligible to receive a Plaque/Bar/Trophy with a combined theory and performance score of 80 or higher.*

*To be eligible to receive these awards, students must choose the video submission option.*

### **What awards will students receive this year?**

*All level 1-2 students that complete the AIM exam and all level 3-12 students that completed the theory exam in January will receive the ISMTA AIM pin.*

*All level 1-2 students that complete the AIM exam and all level 3-12 students that complete the Performances exam will receive the ISMTA AIM Certificate and this year's composer bust Tchaikovsky for all exam options selected.*

*All students participating in AIM for the first time that completes the theory and performance exams will receive the AIM medal.*

### **Will the AIM Awards be given this year?**

*Yes, AIM Awards will be given this year. Students that wish to be considered for these awards must choose the video submission option.*

NSMTA AIM Awards are \$100 monetary awards given to the top combined theory and performance scoring student at level 10 and level and to ALL level 12 students. In addition to successfully meeting all AIM requirements outlined in the AIM Syllabus, students must also meet the following requirements:

- Receive a minimum combined theory and performance score of 89 or above

- Participate in AIM at NSMTA with an NSMTA teacher for at least 3 years (inclusive of this year)

**Is there a deadline to complete level 12 exam or recital?**

*No, there is no deadline for level 12 students to complete their exam or recital.*

*AIM Award will be given at time of completion if all requirements are met, either via video submission or In Person exam or recital when that can take place. Completion can be extended to 2021.*

*However, level 12 students must complete the technique by June 28 via video submission.*

**Can students take the Performance Exam next year?**

*Students that wish to delay this year's Performance Exam until next year's Performance Exam in April 2021 may do so. \$15 Re-registration fee will be waived.*

*This would only be applicable if the student will take the same level Performance Exam as the Theory Exam they passed in January 2020*

*If the Performance Exam is not completed this year, teachers always have the discretionary option to advance students to the next level in the following year.*

**You can also view the Google Slide presentation by clicking [here](#) or by copying and pasting the URL address below:**

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSafVk7KD32ieL\\_FxFTbWIYfxuAmXzW-oPM2PAQ-fydF9RicOSAqUixK09moHerV7owd1YwqxPNCGsm/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSafVk7KD32ieL_FxFTbWIYfxuAmXzW-oPM2PAQ-fydF9RicOSAqUixK09moHerV7owd1YwqxPNCGsm/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000)