



## 125<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION & CONTEST

Dear Instructors,

We are very excited to announce that the American Guild of Music is holding its 125<sup>th</sup> National Convention and Contest at the Radisson Kalamazoo Hotel **July 30 – August 2, 2026**. The contest may begin Thursday Evening with most of contest on Friday- Sunday. Be prepared for Thursday evening competition if needed. Contest registration will open May 14<sup>th</sup> with a deadline of June 15, 2026.

Please read the 2026 Rules and Regulations as there have been a few changes. All areas of change appear in bold, italicized print. **WE WILL USE THE 2023-2026 Online SYLLABUS FOR THE NATIONAL CONTEST. You can obtain copies of all AGM Contest forms online at <https://www.americanguild.org/contests/agm-national-convention-and-contest>**

Hotel Rates are \$184.00 Per night. **You can make your reservations before June 24 on line here:** <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/rj30b7?checkInDate=2026-07-30&checkOutDate=2026-08-03&ratePlanCode=BQFOYD>

An enrollment fee will apply to all students and will include a program, badge and t-shirt. The enrollment fee will vary depending on whether your entry is entered online or mailed in. **Thus, when entering your students, you must specify the t-shirt size for each student.**

**Remember to include email addresses for each student or their parent.** Please note that the teachers email address must not be listed as the students email address. This is particularly important to have during the contest, as we will be able to send live updates regarding room changes and event schedules as they are happening in real time.

We ask that you pay close attention to our time deadlines throughout this year's contest entry process. Please make note that we will only field phone calls from teachers or studio personnel. ***Please inform all parents and students that under no circumstances will we field any phone calls from parents or students regarding changes to the schedule! We will ignore these calls because*** we simply do not have the personnel to handle phone calls from parents/students. One more reminder: when calling about corrections or changes, ***please call the provided number only. It is important for teachers to follow all deadlines and double check all confirmations and schedules. Late information slows down the process for everyone.***

### NATIONAL CONTEST INFORMATION

#### **Awards Banquet (semi formal attire)**

Awards at the Nationals are given at the Grande Awards Banquet on Sunday evening. Performing at the Grand Awards Banquet are the Convention Orchestra, Choir and the North American Invitational Championship winners. All students who attend the nationals are expected to attend the annual awards banquet. Tickets must be ordered in advance starting June 10<sup>th</sup>. to June 29<sup>th</sup> for early bird priced tickets. A limited amount of additional tickets can be purchased after that date until July 27<sup>th</sup> for an additional fee of \$25 and \$52. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/agm-125th-national-convention-and-contest-awards-banquet-tickets-1989150494676?aff=oddtcreator>

#### **All Around Awards**

These awards are exclusive to the National Contest and everyone who participates is automatically entered if the instrument on which they are playing has a minimum of 20 students or is 10% of the contest. Points are kept for placing 1st thru 6th in all divisions and points are awarded for participation in activities such as the Essay Contest, Theory Test and Sight Reading. Huge trophies are given out at the end of the Awards banquet.

#### **Convention Choir & Orchestra**

These activities are open to all students who attend the contest. The choir is open to students of all ages without a portable instrument, and vocal students. The Choir and Orchestra is geared towards the more advanced students and teachers are invited to participate. They perform at the awards banquet on Saturday. Both the choir & orchestra meet for nightly rehearsals. A \$12.00 registration fee is required for each. (All-Around Points given)

#### **Cadet Teachers Course**

This four-year course is for students 14 or older and introduces students to some basic principles of private music instruction. Students discuss handling situations that may arise in everyday teaching. No specific instrument is addressed. A \$20.00 registration fee is required. Please indicate which year 1st, 2nd or 3rd. (All-Around Points given. Students under 14 can obtain points by composing an essay entitled "What the AGM National Contest Means to me")

#### **North American Invitational Championship (NAIC)**

This is our most prestigious division and takes place on the final day of the contest. Instruments eligible are Accordion, Guitar, Drum Set, Snare Drum, Keyboard, Sequenced Keyboard, Pop Piano, Classical Piano, Violin, Vocal Musical Theater, Vocal Pop and Vocal Classical.

To qualify for this division, you must place 1st or 2nd in a qualifying round which takes place at AGM Regionals. A final NAIC qualifying round is held on the first day of the National Contest. Since this is an Invitational Contest, we invite other music competitions to send their winner of their top division to our contest. To qualify from another contest other than an AGM contest the contestant must have a letter from the organization on official letterhead, which must be submitted to the Contest Director for approval. (No All- Around Points given)

#### **Age Finals**

To qualify you must place 1st through 5th in any Age Achievement division throughout the previous contest year which runs August through July. Trophies given for championship only. (No All-Around Points given) (Cash Award Given)

#### **Items To Remember:**

- \*We will use 2023 -2026 Syllabus for the Test List that is available on line.**
- \*All Entries that are mailed must be received by JUNE 12, 2026** (late entries will not be accepted without a late payment fee of \$20.00 PER STUDENT and the permission of the Contest Director)
- \*Please remember to list the name of the Test List song for each student included on the mail-in enrollment form.
- \* Entries entered online must be paid for by PayPal. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY June 20, 2026. Unpaid entries will not be scheduled and will be subject to late fees.**

#### **Special All Around Contest with \$500 Cash Awards**

The All-Around Championship is the premier individual award of the American Guild of Music, honoring the most versatile and dedicated musicians. During the 125th contest year, the accumulation of points will include eligible events for any Online Contest, Regional Contest and National Contest taking place during the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year (2026). More points = more chances to win! Please note: To celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, specific enhancements regarding prize money and scoring have been implemented exclusively for the 2026 season. [Read more about that here.](#)

### Enrollment fee & Facilities Fee

All students must pay the enrollment fee of \$38.00 per student mail-in registration or \$34.00 per student for online registration and will receive a program, badge and 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition T-shirt of the size indicated. **Please remember to indicate your student's t-shirt size and keep a record of it.** The t-shirt size portion of the registration process does not always work. It would help to send your recorded t-shirt list to [schedule@americanguild.org](mailto:schedule@americanguild.org).

A facilities fee is charged per family and those families who stay 2 nights or more will get it refunded to them. If two children from the same family are entered into the contest we must manually adjust the fee so that it is charged one time.

### On-Line Registration Entry

Online Registration is available for AGM Members only. If you are an AGM Member you should have received via email a login code and password for past contests. The same password is valid. If you have not, please email a request to [agm@americanguild.org](mailto:agm@americanguild.org). Members can reset their passwords when logging in. Online Registration is fast and efficient since information for all students who have entered past contests will be already in the database and there will be no need to retype this information. Confirmations will be immediately emailed upon submission.

### Mailed or Emailed Entries

Please send us an email with all students' information, DOB, LOS, Instrument, the solo categories, t-shirt size and the parents email and we will enter it manually for the mailed in enrollment fee. You can mail in a check to 2877 Alpine terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208 by June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Group and Duet Enrollment Forms

The Group Enrollment Form is used for all groups, bands, ensembles, pop combos and battle of the bands. This form ties in with the group section on your accounting forms. The entry form includes a box to mark as well as a space to write the group number. You provide the group number. The same is true for duets – mark the box and provide us with a duet number. These numbers that you provide us for groups and duets help us assign the correct players to each group and duet. **REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE ENTERING GROUPS – YOU MUST EMAIL IN THE GROUP FORM.**

### Contest Grants

We would like to see all students participate in the National Contest. We have a limited number of grants that are available for students of member teachers. The student must submit an essay titled "Why I want to attend the National Contest" and the teacher must send a letter describing why the student deserves a grant. Take advantage of the grants by sending in your essay before June 10, 2026, to [agm@americanguild.org](mailto:agm@americanguild.org).

### Scheduling Change Policy.

Please note that it is the teachers' responsibility to check all entries for accuracy. Once a schedule has been released a teacher can submit changes up to 72 hours before the start of the contest. No changes will take place 72 hours before the contest or at the contest. All changes must be accompanied by a \$15 change fee.



## 2026 National Contest Fee Schedule. Deadline: Jun 24th

SOLOS:	\$35.00 for the first solo
	\$25.00 each (for 2nd and 3rd solos)
	\$20.00 each (for four or more additional solos)
	\$40.00 for Evaluation Solo ONLY
	N.A.I.C. Qualifications \$45.00
	Concertos Qualifications \$45.00
	Concerto Finals \$55.00
	Age Finals \$35.00
	NAIC Finals \$55
	Sight Reading \$10
	Convention Choir \$12
	Convention Orchestra \$12
	Cadet Teachers \$20
	Mandatory Banquet Tickets Early Bird Price: Children 12 & under \$21.00.
	Adults and students 13 and over \$44.00

### GROUPS:

Duets	\$18.00 per person
Duos	\$28.00 per person
Ensembles, Bands & Pop Combos	\$10.00 per person
Showband/Showchoir	\$10.00 per member
Battle of the Bands	\$10.00 per member

THEORY Theory Test (levels 1-9)	\$3.00 per level
Theory Test (level 10)	\$20.00 (prepay all levels)

### MANDATORY ADMINISTRATION FEES:

Enrollment Fee - \$38.00 per student mail-in registration. (registration includes t-shirt and badge)
\$34.00 per student for online registration
Facilities Fee per family \$30

### Contest Schedule

Every year we get requests to be scheduled on a specific day. At this time, we are uncertain of our schedule. Please be prepared that most events will be scheduled Friday, Saturday. All finals will be on Sunday, with overflow events scheduled on Thursday if needed.

Rick Chizmadia will be fielding all general contest questions. You can reach Rick at 586-994-6810 or at [agm@americanguild.org](mailto:agm@americanguild.org). Gina Selvaggi will field all inquiries about the scheduling of the contest. Email her at [gselvaggi@americanguild.org](mailto:gselvaggi@americanguild.org) or call her by WhatsApp at 1-416-936-7681

Thank you for your interest in AGM and we look forward to seeing back at the **National Contest**