



Dear Instructor:

The 49th annual Great Lakes Contest will be held April 17-19, 2026 at the Westin Detroit Metro Hotel Romulus, Michigan. We are pleased to announce a special All-Around Champion Competition in honor of the 125th anniversary of AGM. Cash prizes will be given from points accumulated from both Regional and National Contests. See attached document.

Please read the 2026 Rules and Regulations as there have been a few changes. All areas of change appear in bold, italicized print. You can obtain copies of all AGM Contest forms online at: www.americanguild.org/glr.html.

We must sell rooms at the hotel to pay for the constantly increasing cost of meeting room rental. We strongly encourage all participants to stay at the hotel. When students stay at the Westin they're more relaxed and have better performances. They do not have to deal with the stress of arriving on time, dealing with traffic, getting up early and a long car ride prior to playing their solo. Students can use the practice rooms, access the pool and attend the fun nighttime activities. The room rate this year is \$189.00 single and double rooms per night which is a great bargain from the normal rate of \$300 a night. You'll want to make your hotel reservations early so as not to miss out on this opportunity. Teachers please encourage all your students to stay at the hotel as we need to sell rooms to keep the contest expenses steady. To make a reservation you can Call 888-627-8359 for your reservations and tell them that you are with the American Guild of Music. Or you can reserve via the link on the Great Lakes Regional page. Families who stay at the hotel will get their facilities fee refunded to them.

2026 Great Lakes Regional Contest Fees

SOLOS: \$37.00 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 \$45.00

GROUPS:

Duets \$18.00 per person Duos \$28.00 per person
Ensembles, Bands & Pop Combos \$10.00 per person
Showband/Showchoir \$12.00 per member
Battle of the Bands \$12.00 per member
THEORY Theory Test (levels 1-9) \$3.00 per level
Theory Test (level 10) \$20.00 (prepay all levels)

MANDATORY ADMINISTRATION FEES :

Facilities Usage Fee-\$30.00 per Family (refunded to hotel bill)
Enrollment Fee (registration includes \$6.00 food voucher to be used at hotel cash and carry, a souvenir program, Pre ordered t-shirt and Student ID Badge)
\$32.00 per student for online registration
\$38.00 per student mail-in registration.

All students must pay a facility fee that applies to each family. 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. When entering your students, you must specify the t-shirt size for each student. Keep a copy of your t-shirt sizes and send your pre-ordered t-shirt list to agm@americanguild.org

Remember to include email addresses for each student or their parent/guardian. Please note that the teachers email address must not be listed as the student's 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. Under no circumstances will we respond to 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.

Other Items To Remember:

- *We will use 2022 – 2026 Syllabus for the Test List that is available online.
- *All Entries that are mailed must be received by February 15, 2026 and mailed to 2877 Alpine Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45208. All Entries submitted online must be received by February 22, 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 February 25th. Unpaid entries will not be scheduled and will be subject to late fees.

On-Line Registration

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.

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 emailed after submission

Contest Enrollment Form –Mailed Entries

Please take the time to fill out this form correctly! Please print legibly and use BLACK INK. DO NOT USE PENCIL.

Remember that the following are considered separate instruments and should be entered as separate instruments: Keyboard and Sequenced Keyboard; Drum Set and Snare Drum; Guitar, Classic Guitar, Finger Style Guitar, Hard Rock Guitar and Bass Guitar. Be sure to fill out the accounting form completely for each student including their date of birth, regardless of what divisions in which they are entered.

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 MAIL IN THE GROUP FORM.

Contest Grants

We would like to see all students participate in the Great Lakes Regional 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 Great Lakes Regional 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 February 21, 2026 to agm@americanguild.org.

Vocal & Piano Tentative Contest Schedule

Friday

Test List

Saturday

LOS Duets, Duos NAIC

Sunday

Pop & Age solos

This is very tentative and can change. All other instruments will be scheduled on Saturday or Sunday.

Rick Chizmadia will be fielding all general contest questions. You can reach Rick at 586-994-6810 or at

rchizmadia@americanguild.org.

Gina Selvaggi will field all inquiries about the scheduling of the contest. Email her at gselvaggi@americanguild.org or call her at 1-416-936-7681

Thank you for your interest in AGM and we look forward to seeing everyone at the 48th Great Lakes Regional Contest – April 17-19, 2026



NEW 2026 All-Around Championship Rules & Regulations

\$500 Cash Prizes Given

125th Anniversary Special Edition

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 125th anniversary year (2026). More points = more chances to win! **Please note: To celebrate our 125th Anniversary, specific enhancements regarding prize money and scoring have been implemented exclusively for the 2026 season.**

I. Eligibility & Attendance

- **Exclusivity:** The All-Around title is exclusive to the American Guild of Music National Convention & Contest.
- **National Attendance:** To remain eligible for the title and the anniversary prize, contestants must be registered and present at the **2026 National Contest**.
- **Instrument Minimums:** A champion will be declared for each instrument where there is a minimum of **20 students or 10% of the total contest enrollment** participating in solo divisions for that instrument.

II. The "Triple-Threat" Qualification

To qualify for the All-Around competition, a student must demonstrate proficiency across three distinct pillars:

1. **Solo Performance:** Entry into one or more solo performance events.
2. **Group Performance:** Entry into one or more group performance events (includes duets/ensembles).
3. **Non-Performance:** Entry into one or more non-performance events (e.g., Theory, Sight-reading, or Cadet Clinic).

III. Scoring & Seasonal Integration

The All-Around winner is the student with the highest cumulative points on their instrument.

- **[125th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE — EXCLUSIVE TO 2026] Regional & Online Integration:** For this season only, points earned at Regional and Online Events will factor into your final National All-Around total. This allows a season-long accumulation of points leading into the National Contest.
- **Point Strategy:** Entering more categories increases the chance of winning. Refer to the official Syllabus for the detailed point table.

IV. Event Categories & Limits

To ensure fair play, the following regulations apply to scoring:

- **Solo Performance:** Points are awarded for all solo events, **excluding** NAIC/NAOCC qualifications, NAIC/NAOCC finals, and Age finals.
- **Group Performance:** * Up to **two** Duet/Duo entries and up to **two** Ensemble/Group entries (including Piano Quartet/Trio) count toward the total.
 - Battle of the Bands, Show Band, Show Choir, and Pop Combo qualify as group entries.
 - Participation in the **Convention Orchestra** and/or **Convention Choir** provides additional group performance points.
- **Non-Performance:** Points are awarded for the Sight-reading test, Theory test, and either the Cadet Teachers Clinic or the Student Essay (not both).
- **Score Capping:** If a student exceeds the allowed number of entries in a specific category, only the **two highest scores** will be used for the All-Around calculation.

V. Tie-Breaker Protocols

In the event of a point tie, the following hierarchy will determine the winner:

1. **Primary:** The student with the most 1st place wins in eligible solo competitive events.
2. **Secondary:** The most 2nd place wins, followed by 3rd place wins.
3. **Tertiary:** The highest score on the student's highest-level Theory Test taken at the 2026 contest.
4. **Final:** If a tie still persists, a joint tie will be declared.

VI. Awards & Prizes

- **[125th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE — EXCLUSIVE TO 2026] \$500 Cash Prize:** In honor of our milestone 125th year, the standard cash award has been increased to **\$500** for All-Around Champions. This increased purse is a one-time celebration of our 125th anniversary.
- **Trophy:** All-Around Champions will also receive a commemorative 125th Anniversary trophy.