

# Activities Outside the Piano Lesson

These activities include a variety of contests, festivals, master classes with guest pianists, and other available activities. Dr. Rua highly encourages her prepared students to take part of these learning experiences. The student should be taking lessons with Dr. Rua at least 6 months before taking part on these.

**Evaluation Events** offer feedback from an assessor who comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the performance. These are a great gauge to track student progress. These are designed for students at all levels of performance from the beginning through advanced.

These activities require registration fees that are not included in the tuition, therefore, you are responsible for the payment of registration fees.

To give you a better idea of what is available, here is a summary of them in the following chart. Please ask for more details if you are interested in participating.

Keep in mind there are deadlines for each activity. Please let Dr. Rua know which activities you would like to take part on to start planning repertoire this month.

What and where	When	Description	Deadline	Fee
Masquerade Musicale	October 25, 2025 The Madison Place	Masquerade Musicale is a really fun chance to perform in public—and they are invited to show off their Halloween costumes while they play! Recitals will be scheduled throughout the afternoon. Memorization optional-no illegal copies. Recitals will take place hourly, with up to 25 students in each (no more than 30 minutes' playing time). Each performer receives a treat after playing. Scheduling is on a first-come, first-served bases. Performance times are given one week before the event.	October 11	\$15
Junior Festival, NFMCC, Mount St. Joseph University	Friday March 6 and Saturday March 7, 2026	It is an adjudicated event. Students perform two pieces in front of one or two judges in closed audition (except for advanced level piano students who perform in an open recital format with 2 judges). Open to K-12 graders. Pieces MUST be played from memory. One required piece from a list and other choice piece. Time limits vary with level. Piano is divided into 19 difficulty levels. Students receive a comment sheet, a score (1-5), trophies are awarded every 3 years by a certain amount of points.	December 1, 2025	\$20

<b>What and Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Auditions Festival, OhioMTA-SW, Cincinnati Music Academy	March 14-15, 2026	It is an adjudicated event. Students perform in front of a judge in closed audition (except for advanced level piano students who perform in an open recital format with 2 judges). Open to K-12 graders. Pieces MUST be played from memory. Students receive a comment sheet, a score, and a corresponding ribbon or medal. In addition, top scores in each category will receive an Honors Trophy. Piano is divided into 9 difficulty levels. Students may enter more than one piece. Only one trophy per division (vocal and piano).	February 8, 2026	\$20
OhioMTA Southwest Student Showcase, University of Cincinnati, CCM	May 2026	Annual public recital showcasing the very best student performers in our district: trophy winners from the Auditions Festival in March, or Dr. Rua may nominate one student to perform in the recital. Performers will be selected from the nominee pool according to the needs of the program. Not all nominees will be guaranteed a spot in the recital. Any performer of any age will be welcomed, as long as they embody excellence in musical performance! Memorization is not required.	Mid April, 2026	\$25
Royal Conservatory of Music Assessments, several locations	May, August and December	Individual and complete assessment of the student: 10 levels of piano difficulty, theory, ear training and technique. 3 or more pieces are required, depending of the level. Assessments are scheduled individually. Prices vary according to each level. Score from 1-100. A State Medal of Excellence is awarded to all candidates who earn "First Class Honors with Distinction" (a score of 90 or higher).	February 15, September 15	Varies with each level
State Buckeye Auditions, OhioMTA SW	March 14-15, 2026	Most competitive event. It offers cash prizes for the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> places and honorable mention. Levels: Senior (ages 15-18), Junior (ages 12-14), Elementary (ages 9-11). Time limits vary with each level. At least 2 or more contrasting pieces from different period of music. Pieces must be performed by memory. Auditions will be open to the public. There will be no ties at any level. No photography, audio or videotaping allowed. Judges' comment sheets and Certificates will be given to each participant in the state finals.	March 1, 2026	Varies with each level