

Otero Arts Festival Instrumental Music Showcase

The purpose of the Otero Arts Festival – Instrumental Music Showcase is to provide educational opportunities for artistic growth in young musicians and to recognize them for their musical achievements. Students shall prepare a solo piece to be performed before a panel of judges for comments and suggestions.

The Instrumental Music Showcase will be held in the Ed Stafford Theatre on the campus of Otero College, Friday, April 5, 2024, 9:00AM – 4:00 PM. Warmups are 8:00 – 8:45 AM, downstairs in the Humanities Center. Participants of exceptional musical achievement will be awarded ribbons for each division (Junior and Senior) in each category of participation (Solo and Ensemble); an Otero Scholarship will be awarded to the top graduating Senior in the Senior Division.

RULES/GUIDELINES

- 1) Each student must **COMPLETE AN ONLINE ENTRY FORM** by **Monday, March 17, 2025, 5:00 PM** <https://otero.edu/campus-community/events-registration/otero-arts-festival/> Assigned performance times will be emailed to entrants by **Tuesday, March 25, 2025**.
- 2) Open to Middle School students grades 7 – 8 (**Junior Division**) and High School students grades 9 – 12 (**Senior Division**). Students can prepare an instrumental solo piece and/or a piece for a small ensemble (3 -5 members). Each member of the Instrumental Small Ensemble **MUST register separately with the same Title of Selection**.
- 3) Performance should be between 3 – 5 minutes in length; penalty enforced for over or under time.
- 4) The contestant is responsible for accompanist, if needed; **PRE-RECORDED TRACKS ARE ALLOWED WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE** (original cd or paid invoice for downloaded music) **OR ACCOMPANIST RECORDED MUSIC WITH SCHOOL PURCHASED PERFORMANCE RIGHTS SHEET MUSIC. SIGNED RELEASE REQUIRED AT CONTEST CHECK IN.** Release Form available on the website or at check in.
- 5) Music selection must be chosen from standard literature, in consultation with your music director.
- 6) **Must provide three (3) copies of music for judges with purchase proof if recorded music is being used.**
- 7) Student performances are FREE and OPEN to the public; all are invited and encouraged to attend.
- 8) Scoring is evaluated in three (3) primary areas:
 - a. **Tone/Sound** – tone quality characteristic of instrument, intonation, balance, posture
 - b. **Note/Rhythm** – note accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, tempo, clarity of articulation
 - c. **Musicality** – stylistic interpretation appropriate to song selection, dynamics, phrasing
- 9) The decisions of the judges are final!

Ratings	Definitions
Superior (14 – 19)	Exceptional performance that exhibits musical maturity and excellence in all scoring categories
Excellent (20 – 28)	Truly fine work that is commendable; student exhibits great musical proficiency and development with minor mistakes affecting performance
Good (29 – 42)	Performance demonstrates good technical and musical achievements with some areas of improvement noted in tone quality, technique and steady tempo
Fair (43 – 56)	A moderate number of musical issues noted, such as a weak sound that lacks fullness, numerous wrong notes affecting performance, and varied rhythm/tempo
Unprepared (57 – 70)	Many severe issues noted, such as poor musical style, a weak/unfocused sound, poor posture resulting in poor music habits and inconsistent rhythm