



CARMEL ARTS RISING STAR COMPETITION

Where kids discover their talents and reach their potential!



PIANO DIVISION

COMPETITION DESCRIPTION: Carmel Arts Rising Star-2026 LIVE Competition is open to any performers K-12. The Competition accepts and encourages all levels of performance and all styles of performing arts.

COMPETITION DATES & AWARD CEREMONY: **March 7, 2026**

LOCATION: **Monon Community Center** (1235 Central Park Dr. East, Carmel, IN 46032)

RULES:

- The competition is welcoming all piano students ages 5 - 18 as of January 1st, 2026.
- **Categories include:** 1. Solo 2. Duet/Ensemble 3. Original Work (composition) 4. Parent/Child duet/trio.
- Categories' ages and performance time limits (all approximate):

Note: participants will be grouped and judged by their piano experience (and by age).

Pre-Elementary (ages 5-6)	1 min.
Elementary A, B (ages 7 -8, 9-10)	1-2 min
Intermediate A (ages 11-12, 13-15)	2-3 min
Advanced (ages 16-18)	2-4 min

- All contestants are accepted to the final round, no preliminaries will be held.
- All performances should be well prepared and to be played from memory.
- Solo contestants are to **perform 1 music piece** from any period or music style.
- Duet/Ensemble contestants are to perform 1 piece from any period or music style.
- Only complete, unabridged piano works in the original form and key will be accepted.
- For Pre-Elementary category, the music piece should be at least 16 measures.
- Original music score must be submitted for **Intermediate & Advanced levels**. Measures are numbered.
- Contestants are to be dressed in **concert attire**.
- Duets/Ensembles: other instruments are allowed to play a duet/ensemble with the piano.

How to Register:

- Submit the registration form on the **ITA's website**, along with your headshot (**include your name** and division in the picture file).
- Pay the registration fee. (You will be redirected to PayPal)

*You are allowed to change your repertoire by February 1. **Late repertoire fee \$25/\$50 applies** after Feb 1/10.

APPLICATION DEADLINES AND FEES (non-refundable):

- Registration opens on November 22, 2025. **Deadline: January 17, 2026 at 6pm EDT.**
- **Fees: Solo** - \$105; **Duets/ Ensembles:** \$60 per person. **Late Fee:** \$25. Fees are non-refundable.
- **Duets/Ensembles:** Each performer fills out their own registration form and pays separately.
- **The registration will close earlier** if the max. number of participants is reached before the deadline.

AWARDS: March 7th, 2026, 4:00-5:30pm

- All competitors will be evaluated by a panel of judges and awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd Honorable Mention prizes.
- Participants will receive trophies/medals, diplomas/participation certificates at the Awards ceremony.
- The competition results will be posted on ITA's website and Facebook page.
- Participants will get an opportunity to participate in free workshops led by professional artists.
- Teachers/schools will be acknowledged with certificates of recognition.
- Letter of acknowledgement is provided for college application by request.

NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION:

Students who enter a non-competitive category will not be evaluated by the panel of judges but receive a participation certificate. All application rules and deadlines apply.

REGISTER: <https://www.internationaltalentacademy.org/events/carmel-arts-rising-star-competition-live/>



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OUR MISSION: To educate families and the community about the value and benefits of performing arts, motivate youth to discover and develop their special talents, so they can empower themselves to develop confidence, self-discipline, creativity and capabilities they can use further in life.

RELEASE:

- ✓ I hereby **release** the International Talent Academy and the Rising Star competition, their directors, officers, staff, volunteers, partners, and representatives of this competition from any and all claims for damages or injuries sustained while participation in any activity of this competition.
- ✓ **All rights** for recordings, photos or broadcasts are reserved by the Carmel Arts Rising Star Competition and no fee is payable to any competitor for performances, photos, recordings or broadcasts.
- ✓ The **competition fees**, once paid, are **non-refundable** and will not be subject to reimbursement or return in any situation or condition. This policy applies without exception. We appreciate your understanding and adherence to this policy as it allows us to effectively manage the event and uphold fairness for all participants.

I certify that I have read, understand, and will follow the complete list of rules for the Rising Star Competition. (For competition rules, visit ITA Website)

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE - APPLICATION RULES MUST BE 'ACCEPTED'
(In the online form, please, click 'Read and Accepted' the rules)

CONTACT: <https://www.internationaltalentacademy.org/events/carmel-arts-rising-star-competition-live/>