

# Piano Olympics

The purpose of the creation of these piano playing events is a) to establish a firm technical basis in the performance of our students, and b) to demonstrate that the practice of scales, chords, cadences, and arpeggios CAN BE FUN.

The Olympic events are divided into three categories: 1) Five-finger Patterns and Scales, 2) Chords and Cadences, and 3) Arpeggios. For each event, the student will be awarded a blue or red ribbon based upon the score made on the rating sheet. The blue ribbon is for an outstanding performance and red is honorable mention or “good try.” A blue winner cannot enter that event again. He or she has passed the event and must move on to another event. Red, on the other hand, may enter that event again next year (with the exception of events 101-116), and in fact must enter again in order to pass that event. When a student earns 5 blue ribbons, he/she is awarded a gold medal—hence, the Piano Olympics!

As teachers, we need to ask ourselves if we are teaching our very best. One way to help us remember to teach all these very important aspects is to prepare students for the Olympic program and let them be rewarded in a tangible way for all their hard work. Let your students enter the Piano Olympics and GO FOR THE GOLD!

MMTA wishes to thank the late Vincent Watkins of Peninsula Music Teachers Association for developing the concept and original draft of the Piano Olympics.

Remember, if you intend to enter students on Olympics day, you must be available to judge, monitor, or work in another capacity.