

Scale Olympics

Purpose

To provide motivation to piano students for practicing various technical skills by offering a “musical athletic event” at which he or she may test his achievements before a judge and receive an award for his accomplishments.

Rationale

For years the athletic program has offered track meets and Olympics to young athletes which has resulted in their deciding the areas in which they wish to compete, practicing their skills in a disciplined routine, and finally competing in a track meet in order to test their skills before a judge. Entrants are then awarded ribbons and trophies for their accomplishments. Youngsters of all ages practice faithfully for such a program and think it is fun! Why not allow young musicians the same kind of opportunity and thus encourage the disciplined practice of technical skills in preparation for a musical track meet called “Scale Olympics”?

Who should enter:

The program is designed to include events for the earliest beginner and also events challenging enough for the most skilled. Every contestant will receive a ribbon for his or her efforts in every event entered. The emphasis will be success-based: “You achieved your goal - you are a winner!” The competition for events will be based on how the student achieved what he or she set out to do (blue, red, or white ribbons). Therefore, the students will be competing against his own goal. The emphasis will be on the motivation of students to strive for excellence, but at the same time allowing every entrant to feel his or her achievement was successful, appreciated, and worthwhile.

Cost

\$10.00 per student of members

\$16.00 per student of non-members

Cost is the same regardless of the number of events entered. See Scale Olympics Selection List for listing of events.

Procedure

1. Teachers will become familiar with the events offered on the Scale Olympics Selection List (page 8 of Student Activities Packet).
2. A student may register in any event, any level (A-arpeggios, B-scales, etc.)
3. Teachers reproduce a Scale Olympics Application (page 7 of Student Activities Packet) and a Scale Olympics Rating Form (page 9 of Student Activities Packet) for each student. Make a duplicate copy of the application for yourself so you maintain a record. The application must be marked specifically with keys and qualifying information. The description of events must be filed exactly as they are to be played. At higher levels of achievement, metronome numbers should be indicated. The rating form must be left blank except for the student’s name; this will be the form that the judge will use.
4. Mail the completed Scale Olympics Application and a copy of the Scale Olympics Rating Form for each student with the entry fee by the deadline as stated.