

2026 Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival



Begun in 1980 by Dorothy Sutton, the Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival is an opportunity for talented music students to participate in a State Festival in a Showcase Recital. To assure high standards, the student must first qualify with a Superior rating in Local Preliminary Auditions and must demonstrate a minimal knowledge of music theory by passing a written theory exam with a grade of 85%. Students performing at the State Festival Showcase Recital will receive a gold medal and a Certificate of Participation.

Date: Audition - Saturday, October 3, 2026 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)
State Showcase Recital - Saturday, November 7, 2026 (Elizabethtown College)

Location:

- Moravian University, Center for Music and Art, Priscilla Payne Hurd Campus, Bethlehem, PA
99 W. Church St., Bethlehem, PA. Parking is behind the building or under the Hill-to-Hill Bridge.

What to Expect:

- Theory Test
 - Theory tests may be taken before or after your audition time. Those with audition times after 1:00 pm are asked to take their theory tests before their audition. If you do not complete the test, you can go back after your audition to finish.
- Audition
 - Please limit the family members accompanying students into the building.
 - Please arrive at your audition room no more than 15 minutes before your scheduled time.
 - You will play for a single judge without any audience or family members allowed.
 - Bring the original music for each piece you will perform.
 - Mark the place in books with a paperclip or a long piece of paper.
 - Put the music in the order that you will perform.
 - Give the music to the monitor at the audition room.
 - You must play the pieces that your teacher entered on your application form.
 - Computer generated music is allowed as long as a Photocopy Release has been included in your application or at the time of the audition.
 - The judge will return your music. Don't leave your audition without your music!
- Results / Showcase Recitals:
 - Judges' decisions are final.
 - Performers who receive a Superior rating and have scored 85% or higher on a theory test may advance to the state level for a performance in a Showcase Recital where they must play the ONE piece the judge has chosen.
 - Students are encouraged to attend the State Showcase in November! Students will receive a Certificate and a Gold Medal at the recital.
 - Showcase Recital Fee: None!
 - Your teacher will notify you if you have been selected to play.