

PARENT GUIDE - 2026



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

We invite and gladly welcome all students, instrumentalists and vocalists, from beginner through advanced, old and young, to share their love of music by taking part in the LVMTA Playathon. This annual event is the primary fund raising vehicle of the Lehigh Valley Music Teachers Association, a professional organization of music educators. Proceeds provide generous scholarships to selected college music majors and music camp scholarships for high school applicants. Also supported are the Achievement Awards Auditions, Dorothy Sutton Music Festival, annual recitals at local colleges and Musikfest, master classes, lectures and workshops for teachers and students, and group discount tickets and bus trips to performances in the Valley and beyond. Playathon participants are eligible for discounts on Lehigh Valley Chapter field trips and also to apply for the scholarships.

To Participate: we ask each student to collect donations from family, friends, and neighbors using the Pledge Form supplied by the teacher. To help cover our operating expenses for the event, we are suggesting a minimum pledge of **\$25.00 per student, with a minimum pledge of \$50.00 from families with multiple students.** This is our only means of raising important operating funds, so please encourage donors to be generous. Parents should write a check for the total amount of cash pledges collected. Checks are made payable to **Lehigh Valley Music Teachers Association or LVMTA.** Effective 2024, all donations will be collected by each participating teacher prior to the Playathon event on February 21st & 22nd. Donations should be given to the teacher BEFORE the Playathon. However, late donations will be accepted.

Each teacher chooses a performance time for his/her studio on either or both **Saturday, February 21st from 10:00 AM to 7 PM or Sunday February 22nd from 12 PM to 5 PM** and is assigned to **one of three performance locations** in the mall. Each location is equipped with a grand piano, provided by Steinway & Sons.

Both popular and/or classical selections may be performed. Ensemble playing is greatly encouraged and memorization is not required. Performers should dress appropriately for performance with sensible shoes for pedaling and/or for singing. Upon arrival at the Mall, **register at the PLAYATHON REGISTRATION DESK located at the main entrance, ground level, near the Cheesecake Factory and Barnes and Noble store.**

Upon Arrival: please provide student's name and teacher's name. Your student's name will be checked off the teacher list. A "goodie bag" will be distributed and directions to the assigned performance site given. An Amazon Gift Card in the amount of \$100 will be awarded to the top fundraiser. The second top fundraiser will be awarded a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. These prizes may be split in the event of ties. Additional prizes if available may also be given to other top fund-raisers.

Note to prospective Frank Chesebro Scholarship applicants and their teachers - the Playathon participation requirement has been eliminated for scholarship applicants by Board decision, but we hope those considering applying for the scholarship will support the Playathon and other LVMTA events.

Thank you for your help and support. Your participation is vital in making this year's Playathon another great success!

Sincerely yours,

PLAYATHON COMMITTEE:

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